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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE Continental complication, we are sorry to observe, grows daily more alarming. Perhaps, the worst sign of it lately is the silence which has prevailed. We hear of no more pamphlets, no more speeches to diplomatists; but solid, downright, and practical preparations for war go steadily on amongst all the Powers concerned. Austria has evidently made up her mind to the worst; she is fortifying all her stations in Italy, and preparing her whole military force at home. France, or rather the French Government, is no whit less active. Troops and horses pass south; heaps of material are accumulated; and the price of substitutes for those drawn by the conscription has been raised. In Sardinia, meanwhile, people seem to look on the affair as settled. The breaking-out of war is there considered a mere matter of time. Accordingly, the funds feel the effect of all this agitation daily. Every commercial operation is more or less interfered with by it; and soon war itself will be looked on as a kind of relief after an uncertainty which does much of its mischief without opening up any of its new vistas. Probably, the French Emperor has intended to produce this state of feeling, and made his angry demonstration so early in the year, that we might get familiar with the notion of war before the fine weather began for it. But in Great Britain, as any observer can see, the indisposition to encourage hostilities grows stronger as they draw nearer, and the great point here is only how they can be prevented.

Various pacific suggestions fly about the European press on this point, but what neutralises them is the doubt whether Napoleon wishes for peace. It is useless to devise modes of avoiding war for those who have no sincere desire that it should be avoided. Accordingly, the very first proposal of Austria towards accommodation is understood to have failed at once. She volunteered, it seems, to withdraw, if France would withdraw, all such forces of hers as pressed on the Papal Power. "No," says the French Emperor, "for if we withdraw, the alternative is the revolution." So away goes that scheme, though the centre of the whole mischief in Italy is the Papal Power itself. What, then, remains? We are not told; but what is implied is plain enough—that Napoleon, not being satisfied with Austria's general conduct in Italy, means to force her to alter it. Now this—the only pretext he has for a war of which the real

inspiration is ambition—we distinctly repudiate, and this country distinctly repudiates. Were England to tolerate such views for a moment, she would be handing over Europe to the dictation of a single Power, and that a Power to which the worst wars of modern times have all been owing. Whatever Austria's Italian administration—and we are far from panegyricising it—this kind of thing would be worse. On a fair balance of evils, it is better that Austria should administer her provinces badly, than that the rights of single Powers should be exposed to the assaults of their neighbours. For, to sanction the latter course, would be to disturb that general equilibrium of interests which is the condition, not only of the peace of Europe, but of its very civilisation.

A better chance of peace than any founded on Napoleon's moderation, is furnished by the attitude of the Powers not directly concerned in the matter in debate. The feeling of Germany is unmistakeable. Every Teutonic state is at heart jealous of French influence, and detests the memory of its sufferings at French hands in the last great Western war—sufferings due to the divisions prevailing in Germany itself. Let them fairly carry this national sentiment into action, and we need have no fear of the results. United Germany would—perhaps not immediately, but certainly in the end—compel France to sue for quarter; and the defeat of Napoleon in a great struggle, implies the fall of his dynasty as a matter of course. Indeed, if he forces on a war in the present state of the world, such a consummation will become the steady desire of every honest man.

If it be clear how British sympathies are going in the matter of peace or war, it is equally clear what our immediate duties are in the matter. First, to do our best for peace as long as possible; next, to prepare ourselves to protect our own interests, if this prove impossible. And in such a crisis as the present, no news could be more happily timed than that which the Indian mails bring. Oude, they tell us, is permanently subdued, and the armies everywhere opposed to us are melting into contemptible rabbles—as snow does into wastes of mud. Eight regiments are absolutely ordered home already: than which we could not have a healthier sign, or a more welcome fact. Then, the Navy Estimates—less formidable than was once thought—are received cheerfully by the nation; and will help the Govern-

ment, by their increase, to push naval improvements further than at any past time. A war in Italy makes a British force of respectable size a matter of course in the Mediterranean: and the recollection that Corfu is the key of the Adriatic, comes in well at the opening of such a struggle to quash finally all foolish sympathies with the native demagogues on the part of the people of this country. But our best efforts, after all, must be bestowed on a Channel fleet, of which two divisions should be almost constantly at sea (and exercising) from the first fine day in spring. We shall bring much ill-will on ourselves by a neutral policy, of course; but of this we need not take any notice, except what is comprised in contempt and in preparation. It may be, that we are on the eve of another struggle for our national position both at home and in the south, and we must not shut our eyes to the possibility.

While thoughts of this kind fill all men's imaginations, they do not prevent us from undertaking the ordinary pacific and domestic work of the day. This week we have had a church-rates bill, and next week we are to have a reform bill. Mr. Walpole's measure for ending a vexatious controversy, is one of those compromises which are now become established features of our legislation—a fact significant of the politics of the time. He does not want to abolish church-rates, and he does not want to enforce them: so he proposes to supersede them, by enabling their well-wishers to raise the amount in other ways, and to make the dissenters pay for their victory by exclusion from vestries where a rate may afterwards be considered. To the principle and temper of this measure we have no objection. Its working is a question which only time can settle. That there is a degree of zeal prevalent among churchmen at present, which is most creditable to the church, is one of the best-known facts of the day; and we do not doubt the success of any effort to convert into voluntary action whatever is at present demanded for the fabric of the church by law. But will not the compromise prove too delicate in the working, for a country where the controversy has been so roughly carried on? Is not too much expected from the churchman, yet not enough yielded to satisfy the dissenter? These are our fears, and, though we should be glad to see them prove groundless, we scarcely expect as much. At the same time, let this be remembered—that if the measure in question does not pass, no other



THE RIVER ST. LAWRENCE DURING THE FROST, WITH A VIEW OF THE CITADEL OF QUÉBEC.—(FROM A SKETCH BY J. ARCHER.)

measure is likely to be better. The choice for the Houses and for the country is between this measure of Walpole's and a deadlock, like that prevailing about the education question in Scotland, where hostile parties prefer a difficulty to a mutual sacrifice which might bridge the difficulty over.

THE FROZEN ST. LAWRENCE AND THE CITADEL OF QUEBEC.

THE last mail has brought us sketches from Canada, which cannot fail to interest most of our readers, as illustrating a portion of the British empire far removed from home. The engraving we publish this week gives us a notion of the difference presented by our own Thames and the St. Lawrence, at this season of the year. "The silent highway has become more silent still, not even the rippling of the stream disturbs the heavy quiet of the snow-laden atmosphere. Where a little while since boats and rafts floated swiftly down the turbulent way, pedestrians take their diurnal walk; the garrison choose the river as their play-ground, and many a skating, cricketing, and curling match on its frozen bosom enlivens the monotony of military duty. Beyond, crowning the summit of Cape Diamond, at an altitude of 333 feet above the bed of the river, stands the citadel of Quebec, frowning with its dark walls upon the peaceful snow. The citadel is strongly fortified, covers more than eight acres of ground, and contains a most extensive armory. At the base of the hill are clustered an irregular batch of picturesque dwellings crowding to its sides as if for shelter; and we, bethinking ourselves of the inclement weather, cannot blame them.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE peace or war question—which is allowed on all hands to rest with France—is still far from being settled. The Emperor pursues his system of ambiguity; and in answer to a deputation of "industrialists," who recently waited upon him to urge the desire of the French people to remain at peace, he made another of those little speeches by which he continues to keep Europe in a chronic state of apprehension. "Gentlemen," said he, "re-assure yourselves; peace will be made (*la paix se fera*)."

Now, people remark that if this sentence be correctly reported, it is hardly intelligible. *La paix se fera* might be said if hostilities were going on, but France is not at war yet. At the same time, every preparation for war is in progress. Immense activity is displayed in finishing the line of rail between Marseilles and Toulon, which is strictly a strategic work, and of little use save for the conveyance of stores and troops from the north, centre, and south of France. A month will suffice for its completion. Flat-bottomed boats are being constructed; it is supposed for a descent on Italy; and the "Independence Belge," says, "The most significant fact that we can mention is the distribution already made to the officers of General Renault's division of a fifth part of their allowances in advance. This advance is generally made before beginning a campaign, with a view of enabling those who receive it to equip themselves properly for war." It is not less significant (if true) that France has declined entering upon certain propositions of the Vienna Cabinet for opening negotiations on the affairs of Central Italy.

The "Presse," which is supposed to be the organ of Prince Napoleon, has received from the Minister of the Interior a warning for an article on Italian politics, signed Leonzon Leduc. This warning is ascribed to a remonstrance from Baron Hubner—a threat that he would ask for his passports.

The Conference of Paris is shortly to assemble. The first questions that it will discuss are the proposed modifications in the Danubian "Act of Navigation." The Conference has also to decide on the legality of the late double election of M. Alexander Couza as Hospodar of Moldavia and of Wallachia. Whether the state of affairs in Italy will be another subject for consideration, is yet to be seen.

The rumour that General Lamoricière had offered his services to the Emperor in case of war is now revived.

SPAIN.

THE Queen of Spain continues to receive addresses from Cuba, protesting against the idea of selling the island to the Americans.

The sudden death of the Intendant of the Palace, the Marquis de Santa Isabel, gave rise to the report that his accounts were in disorder, and that under his management the interests of a member of the Royal family had become seriously compromised; but this is contradicted.

AUSTRIA.

COUNT BUOL has addressed a despatch to the German States on the Italian difficulty. This document sets forth that the complications which have recently arisen are by no means to be attributed to any act of Austria. Without entering into a deep examination of the causes which have induced certain Powers to make the state of Italy a question of peace or war, Count Buol points out that the serious symptoms are caused by the difference of views taken of the condition of Italy by France and by Austria. He then in forcible language enumerates the treaties in virtue of which Austria holds her possessions in the Italian peninsula, and touches on the secret working of revolutionary societies in this question. He expresses the satisfaction of the Emperor at the demonstrations made throughout Germany against foreign aggression, but he is desirous, in the general interest, of ascertaining in a more precise and official manner, the line of conduct the States of the German Confederation would adopt in case a war should ensue between Austria on the one hand and France and Piedmont on the other.

Meanwhile, Austria is preparing for conflict. All soldiers on furlough are ordered to join their regiments, and certain fortifications on the Adriatic are to be commenced—and completed in six weeks!

There is a doubtful story that the Duke of Saxe-Coburg has gone to Vienna to submit to the Austrian Government a scheme for the thorough reform of the Papal States by means of an European Congress, to which the four other great Powers are reported as having already consented.

According to a recent despatch from Vienna, Austria will send representatives to the Paris Conference, provided England and Prussia guarantee that the Italian question shall not be mooted.

PRUSSIA.

ON the Italian question the Prussian Government, while quietly preparing for any contingency, will evidently take no open part beyond that of urging Austria to introduce reforms in case the signs of war increase. At Berlin, as elsewhere, it is felt that the affairs of Italy cannot remain as they are, and that "something must be done."

In the sitting of the Berlin Chamber of Deputies last week a Ministerial project of law relating to civil marriage was brought in. Its main provision is the establishment of a permissive or optional civil marriage, and the abolition of impediments to marriage between nobles and commoners.

The students of Berlin University have celebrated the birth of little Frederick by a torch-light procession, and a deputation of their number, with a congratulatory address, was received by the Prince and Princess.

RUSSIA.

RUSSIAN soldiers on furlough have been called in, and orders have been given to purchase cavalry horses.

In the "Journal de Posen," of February 6, we read:—

"The central committee established in this capital to superintend the organization of the peasants, held a meeting within the last few days, at which the Emperor presided. M. Mouraviev, the Minister (who belongs to the party opposed to the complete enfranchisement of the serfs), read a carefully-prepared scheme, in which, however, the question of enfranchisement was not touched upon, the amelioration of the condition of the serfs being

alone considered. After listening with patience to the whole of this document, the Emperor said, 'That is very good, gentlemen, but what is the result of it?' Several members of the committee replied that the conditions of the imperial ukase had been strictly complied with, no mention being made therein either of the enfranchisement of the peasants, or of the scheme for giving them possession of the land they occupied, but simply of an amelioration in their state. To this the Emperor answered, 'Very well, gentlemen, if you understand my meaning thus, and are so anxious to adhere strictly to the letter of my ukase, I am ready to publish another.' Alarmed by these words, the opposition party has set about the draught of a second proposal."

In general, this question of enfranchisement advances very slowly.

ITALY.

THE King of Sardinia has written to the French Emperor upbraiding him with drawing back from his promises of support, hinting at his own abdication, and a complete divulging of the engagements undertaken by France towards him.

The Sardinian Legislature has passed the bill authorising the loan of 50,000,000fr. The exports of forage and oats to Lombardy is prohibited.

The Grand Duke of Tuscany intends, we hear, to grant a liberal constitution to his subjects.

The King of Naples is very ill. He is said to be affected with the disease of which his father died—water round the heart.

The Duchess of Parma has just signed a treaty with Austria, authorising this latter Power to occupy all the forts of the State with her troops, in case of war.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

THE report that the Sultan had protested against the election of Colonel Couza in Wallachia and Moldavia has been confirmed. This subject is creating much curiosity. Frequent conferences have taken place between the English and Austrian Ambassadors and the Porte, no doubt to concert measures for overthrowing the double nomination, to which France, Austria, and Sardinia are wholly favourable. Colonel Couza, it is said, has offered to abdicate in favour of a foreign Prince, to rule over both Principalities—a move which will probably incline many to believe that Couza is the tool of Russia and France in this business. There is little doubt that Russia would resist any attempt to prevent the union of the Principalities by force; and how it is to be hindered otherwise is not clear. The attitude of the Roumanian people is resolute. Fifteen thousand Turkish troops are stationed along the banks of the Danube.

Turkey has signed the convention concerning the navigation of the Danube, which the riverain states have concluded among themselves.

The Kaimacan of Djeddah, who had been sent with other prisoners to Constantinople by M. Sabatier, has been condemned by the Turkish government to imprisonment for life. His accomplices have been condemned to death.

Considerable agitation prevails in Servia. The Principality now cries for complete independence.

AMERICA.

THE House of Representatives have passed a bill, making a free gift of 160 acres of the public lands to "every actual citizen, or half citizen, settler, the head of a family," who may settle on the land and cultivate a farm.

The Judiciary Committee was instructed to inquire into the expediency of a law to punish polygamy in the U.S. territories.

Lord and Lady Napier had been invited by a long list of United States Senators to a grand public ball, to be held at New York on the 17th instant. The 42nd Highlanders, too, were to be the recipients of American hospitality. The Board of Councilmen of New York had passed the following resolution:—

"Whereas, the 42nd Regiment of Highlanders, of the British Army, are now on their way from England, and will pass through this city, en route for Aspinwall, being the first body of British troops that has visited the United States since the war of 1812; and whereas this regiment has distinguished itself by its gallantry and heroism in the Indian war; therefore—Resolved,—That the hospitalities of the city be tendered to the officers of the 42nd Regiment of Highlanders, B.A., and that a committee of five from each board be appointed to receive them upon their arrival at this point, and to carry out the intention of the resolution."

There were five ships of war lying within sight of Greytown—the English line-of-battle ship *Cesar* (74), the steamers *Valorous* and *Diadem*, and the American sloops *Jamestown* and *Savannah*.

From Victoria, British Columbia, we learn that a party of American "rowdies" had carried away a British justice of the peace from Holmes Bar, and made him pay a fine of 50 dols. for contempt.

CHINA.

LORD ELGIN is said to have reached Hankow (the telegraph is responsible for the orthography), and to have returned to Shanghai on the 1st of January.

A small combined naval and land force was despatched from Canton on the 8th of January to punish attacks made upon parties of European troops outside the city. The position of the enemy was taken without loss, and a village destroyed. The disturbances are believed to have been instigated by the Imperial Government.

From Cochinchina, the news is, that the Viceroy of Camboge, who, fifteen months since, withdrew from the Emperor of Annam, had changed his policy, and placed his troops under the orders of the Emperor. Therefore Admiral Genouilly had resolved to attack Camboge. The Annamite Government holds out obstinately.

HOPE FOR NAPLES.—It seems strange that any one should have a good word to say in favour of the system of government maintained by Ferdinand II., King of the Two Sicilies. We are told, however, by our correspondent at Naples, who professes in this matter to represent the feelings and views of the most enlightened Neapolitans, that, bad as is the government of King Ferdinand, the government of his son would probably be worse. The son is the very image and counterpart of the father, without his ability.—"The Times."

AN APOSTATE NOBILITY.—"Galignani" remarks that the intelligence from Hayti is silent on one point of historical interest, namely, the attitude assumed by the court and aristocracy during recent events. "An army of gallant nobles followed the Bourbon princes over the frontier, while even the most unpopular of the Stuarts was consoled in his exile by the presence of devoted and high-born adherents; but Souleuvre, it would appear, landed in Jamaica with one single follower! Can it be possible that the Haytian aristocracy committed so strong a breach of etiquette as to desert its creator? Did the Dukes of Marmalade and Curacao forsake the sovereign who raised them to such savoury elevation? Where did those mighty warriors, Marshal the Duke of Trou-Bonbon and Prince Lazarus Jape-A-Poil hide themselves in the hour of need? What was the attitude of those other titled champions of the Haytian court—Barons Bobo and Cochon, Count: Petit-Trou, Duke Lemonade, and consorts?"

ROSSINI.—Rossini, who for some time after his return to Paris seemed to entertain an indifference for his art almost amounting to aversion, has lately recovered his musical feeling. On Saturday evenings his doors are thrown open to his friends, and these soirées are the most interesting musical reunions in Paris. The most eminent artists frequent them, including the stars of the opera; and Rossini enjoys the pleasure of hearing his own music as well as that of other composers, exquisitely performed. The great maestro's health appears to be quite restored. Though his works seem to belong to a former age, he himself is only in his 67th year.

RATHER AWKWARD.—A private letter from Paris reports a rather curious incident. In his tour, the Comte de Paris was received at Seville with the honours due to the King's son. The French Ambassador at Madrid protested, and at a subsequent stage the young Count was received only as a private gentleman. On hearing of this the Duke de Montpensier was seriously offended, and at once resigned all the Spanish titles which have been conferred upon him as husband of the Infanta Luisa. It is even said that he contemplates leaving Spain. The occurrence has caused some feeling of embarrassment.

THE "UNIVERS" proposes that existing differences between France and Austria shall be submitted to the arbitration of the Pope!

FATHER ANSELMO SEHNIGER, a monk of Germany, states that he has discovered a key to the different systems of musical notation in use in the middle ages. He explains this discovery in a memoir of St. Gall's celebrated "School of Singing," a work supposed to have been written before the twelfth century.

THE CHARLES ET GEORGES AFFAIR.

THE documents relating to the seizure of the *Charles et Georges* have been published, and are interesting, inasmuch as they show what part our Government took in the affair. From this correspondence it appears plain that the barque *Charles et Georges* was found at Conducia, a port distant about two or three leagues from Mozambique, with 110 slaves on board; that the inquiry instituted by a commission named for the purpose of examining the matter brought to light that about half of the 110 slaves had been embarked from Portuguese territory; that they were not voluntary emigrants, but had been bought by the captain, and that some of them had been stolen from their masters, who resided in the city of Mozambique. On these grounds the vessel was seized, and the captain tried and condemned. The answer to this case on the part of the French authorities was—firstly, that the capture was not made in Portuguese waters; secondly, that the negroes were duly bought of an Arab Sheikh; and, thirdly (as a sort of afterthought), that since there was a delegate of the French Government on board, the proceedings must be held to be authorised by the Emperor, whom it was an insult to the dignity of France to accuse of slave-trading. The Portuguese produce documents in abundance to support their propositions, and show that the presence of the so-called French representative gave no immunity to the acts of the captain and crew. Nevertheless the cabinet of Lisbon offered to submit to arbitration, which the French refused to assent to. Nothing is clearer than that the pretence that the presence of a delegate took the ship out of the treaties made for the suppression of the slave-trade, and also exempted it from the control of Portuguese law, was an afterthought. On the 3rd of October Lord Cowley writes to Lord Malmesbury:—"When I first conversed with Count Walewski on the subject of the *Charles et Georges*, his Excellency, as your Lordship is aware, treated it on the point of the legality of the capture of the vessel in question; he maintained that the seizure had been effected out of Portuguese waters."

It seems now that at the Council of Ministers held yesterday morning, and presided over by the Emperor, the fact that the vessel had been condemned as a slaver was first broached, and it was decided that the condemnation as a slaver of a French ship, having a government delegate on board, authorised to hire African labourers, was tantamount to connecting the Imperial Government with the traffic in slaves, and was derogatory to the honour of France. It was resolved, therefore, that the release of the *Charles et Georges*, and of her captain should be peremptorily demanded and insisted upon. Thus, at the last moment, and when the other arguments of the French Government had been confuted, this assertion that the agent placed on board to buy the blacks conferred immunity on the vessel, was first made. But French ships of war had been already ordered to the Tagus. On the 4th they arrived there, and on the 5th Lord Cowley telegraphed to Lord Malmesbury that the French Government declined to submit to arbitration its differences with Portugal.

We next have some despatches from our Foreign Office to the Admiralty, requesting that some British ships should follow the French to the Tagus for the protection of British interests. This was done. But on the 15th of October Lord Malmesbury sent a despatch to Mr. Howard at Lisbon and to Lord Cowley, urging the Portuguese Government to give way, on the ground that Captain Rouxel, of the *Charles et Georges*, in treating with the Sheikh of Matabane, thought he was treating with an independent chief, although it was proved he knew the place was within Portuguese territory. The Cabinet of Lisbon is told that "it appears to her Majesty's Government to be consistent with a wise indulgence to drop the prosecution of a case which originated in an error, and which might, if imprudently urged against France, be the cause of the gravest complications." After this Portugal had nothing to do but to yield, and a few days after the "Moniteur" made the announcement that the Government of his Most Faithful Majesty had seen the justice of the Imperial demands.

A few days after, Lord Malmesbury wrote to Lord Cowley, requesting him to repeat to Count Walewski the substance of a conversation which had passed between the Duke de Malakoff and Lord Malmesbury at Windsor. It contains a remonstrance against the proceedings of the French Government, recalls the great principle established by the 23rd Protocol of Paris, shows how England had acted up to this principle in the case of the *Cagliari*, and, though with right and power on her side, had offered to the Neapolitan Government a reference to a friendly Power. It also calls attention to the fact that Great Britain has for two centuries been in strict alliance with Portugal, and is bound by treaties to come to her assistance in case of attack or aggression by foreign Powers. To this Lord Cowley sends an answer some days after, narrating his conversation with Count Walewski on the subject. This concludes all that is important in the correspondence. The perusal of it can leave but one impression. The conduct of France was beyond everything violent and overbearing, and Portugal was obliged to suffer for having honestly carried out the engagement she had formed with Europe, and particularly with this country.

A NIGGER SENTRY.—Theodore Parker, of Washington, tells the following anecdote, related to him by an old soldier, who vouched for its truth:—"At Cambridge, General Washington had heard that the coloured soldiers were not to be depended upon for sentries: so one night when the password was 'Cambridge,' he went outside the camp, put on an overcoat, and then approached a coloured sentinel. 'Who goes there?' cried the sentinel. 'A friend,' replied Washington. 'Friend, advance unarmed and give the countersign,' said the coloured man. Washington came up and said, 'Rog-burg.' 'No, sir,' was the response. 'Midford,' said Washington. 'No, sir,' returned the coloured soldier. 'Charlestown,' said Washington. The coloured man immediately exclaimed, 'I tell you, Massa Washington, no man go by here 'bout he say Cambridge.' Washington said 'Cambridge,' and went by, and the next day the coloured gentleman was relieved of all further necessity for attending to that particular branch of military duty."

A FEARFUL VOYAGE.—The late passage of the steamer *North American*, from Liverpool to Portland, United States, with 140 souls, is thus graphically described by one of the passengers:—"We left the Mersey on December the 22nd, during a severe gale of wind from the south-east; and such was the state of the weather, that it was found impossible for the pilot to leave, so he was carried across the Atlantic. At seven p.m. on the 1st of January, the captain calculated that we must be very near Cape Race. As it was thick weather, with continued snow-storms, Captain M'Master shaped his course so as to give the Cape a 'wide berth.' All went well up to nine o'clock, when we were alarmed in the saloon by the cry of 'Starboard! hard a-starboard!' given by the officer on duty. Then followed a violent shock that threw us to the door. A moment of extreme anxiety and terror succeeded. The lashings of the boats were cut away, and the boats provisioned and lowered in five minutes, and their crews told off to meet the emergency. In the meantime the machinery was reversed, and we moved slowly astern. This was the critical moment, for we expected the vessel to sink in deep water. As soon as the excitement had somewhat subsided I proceeded on deck, and could just discern through the haze and snow the precipitous coast, of which we had struck. All around were frantic passengers, rushing to and fro, life-belts in hand, and apparently undecided whether to leap overboard or not. No one slept that awful night. At last the morn arrived, and we found the crew hard at work pumping; the bowsprit was gone, and there was an immense hole extending from just above watermark to the very keel, a distance of from fifteen to twenty feet. (This we could perceive as the vessel was lifted at the bows by the heavy sea.) The hole was large enough, as one of the sailors expressed it, 'for an omnibus to drive through.' The first compartment—the ship being constructed in eight—was full of water, some 30 tons or more, while the second was gradually filling, as some of the rivets diving the first from the second were displaced by the force of the shock. The passengers were divided into gangs for the pumps, and we all took a turn every alternate four hours. At times we would gain on the water, while at others it would gain on us three feet or more in a couple of hours. Seeing our dangerous condition, Captain M'Master determined to bear up for St. John's, Newfoundland; but an adverse wind arose, which baffled all hope of reaching that port, so we made for Halifax, Nova Scotia, a distance of 400 miles, the pumps constantly at play. To add to our misfortunes the cold was intense. The vessel was coated with ice. Ropes an inch in thickness swelled to a diameter of two and three inches. On the fourth day of our troubles, January 5th, our eyes were gladdened by the sight of land, and shortly after mid-day we anchored in the harbour of Halifax."

INDIA.

All advices from India confirm the news received by telegraph last week, that the war in India is at an end. From the borders of Nepal to the Ganges, from the frontiers of Rohilcund to the desert plains of Eastern Bengal, not an enemy to our rule remains in arms. The chiefs and their followers are broken and dispirited fugitives in the jungles of Nepal. 500 forts have been razed to the ground in Oude, and the strongholds from which all-powerful chiefs coerced their peasants, or pointed upon neighbours weaker than themselves, are laid low. The only demands re-organisation. It no longer requires armies; strong garrisons and efficient police are alone needed. Lord Clyde is about to withdraw the first, and Mr. Montgomery will soon create the last. Lord Canning has given an increased extension to the amnesty, and has forbidden any executions to take place unless previously sanctioned by him.

The final defeat was given by Lord Clyde on the 31st of December, when he drove the rebel leaders—Nena Sahib, the Begum, Beni Madho, Mammo Khan, and others, across the Raptée into Nepal.

Lord Clyde left Nanpara on the evening of the 30th with a select force of cavalry, artillery, and infantry—the latter mounted on elephants—and came quite unexpectedly on the enemy on the following morning. So completely were the rebels taken by surprise, that a portion of the cavalry brigade, consisting of the 6th Dragoon Guards, and two horse-artillery guns, under command of Sir W. Russell, 7th Hussars, were at one time within 150 yards of their guns. In consequence of the infantry not being up in time, or the cavalry and the guns being too far in advance, the latter were at first forced to retire under a heavy fire. There were, however, only three men wounded. When the infantry came up, the 7th Hussars advanced through the jungle, and, in the eagerness of pursuit, followed the rebels into the Raptée—a rapid stream—where Major Horne and two men, 7th Hussars, and several horses, were drowned.

Describing this action, the "Times" correspondent says:—

It was about 8.30 when the enemy opened fire on us. The belt of jungle was about half a mile broad. By 10.30, our cavalry and part of the guns suddenly emerged on a wide plain with an undulating surface, in front of which rose the Nepalese hills, with their base covered by the Terai. On the left of the cavalry the belt of jungle ran on in a line down to a dip in the ground, where it abruptly ceased. In the plain appeared the enemy, being in two disorderly bodies, one towards the left, where the jungle ceased, and the other towards a village on our right. Detaching a portion of the 7th Hussars to the left, Sir William Russell led the remainder of his regiment and the Punjabees towards the large mass of the fugitives on the right. As they dashed onwards their course was unfortunately interrupted by a deep nullah filled with water, which stopped Fraser's guns and detained the cavalry in their pursuit. The moment they were freed from this obstacle they charged on to the right, but the enemy had got a good start and were close to the village, which was situated on a ford of the Raptée. Here they rushed across in wild confusion. But the Punjabees pressed close upon them. The Punjabees captured a gun on the bank of the river. Suddenly a heavy battery of six guns from the other side of the opposite bank. Our guns were not up. The enemy on the right had got over, and were collecting on the other side of the rapid river under the cover of their guns. Meanwhile the squadron under Fraser on the left, having a greater space to go over, had not got so close to the river at the point where the jungle joined its course. The enemy, headed by the Rifles through the jungle and cut off on the right, were all crowding in dismay towards the narrow point where there was a ford on the left. The Hussars and Punjabees on the right were at once wheeled round, and, running the gauntlet of the enemy's guns all along the banks of the river, galloped as hard as they could to assist the squadron on the left. As Fraser's men saw they were gaining on the enemy, and that a river ran before them, they gave one ringing cheer, sat down in their saddles, and rushed along as fast, free, and strong as the Raptée itself. "Steady men, steady!"—it is in vain, the thunder of horses' hoofs, the lightning of battle, roll and flash along. Sir William Russell, galloping as hard as he can, tries to come up on their right; but even his long-legged horse cannot catch the troopers up.

The Raptée, now at its lowest, is a very clear, rapid, mountain river, with low banks, between which are beds of sand deposited by the torrents which descend from the hills during the rains. Its course is exceedingly tortuous, and we know little or nothing of its direction, or of the fords. The pace quickens as we close upon the enemy, but the sowars are well mounted, and ride well. The mass of the enemy dash over the bank, over the sands and boulders, and right into the current.

In a cascade of white the sowars precipitate themselves into the waters of the Raptée. At the sight our Hussars give one more wild cry and in an instant they are engaged with them in the river. Not a man could be held, each went straight at an enemy. Their horses flounder amid the rocks, but the Hussars hold their own. They cut down the sowars as they are struggling in the whirling stream, and charge them in the ford. It was one of those wonderful spectacles only to be seen in actual war, and of which peace has no counterpart—here men and horses swimming for their lives, there fierce hand-to-hand conflicts between sowars and Hussars in the foaming water; but the river was our most formidable foe. Poor Major Horne, a most kind-hearted, excellent old soldier, overturned with his horse in the river, was rolled over, swept away, and drowned. Captain Stisted, carried away by the stream, was only saved by the activity and presence of mind of Major Fraser, his comrade, who pulled off his coat and plunged into the river just in time to carry his friend, with a spark of life unextinguished, to the bank. The river was full of struggling men and horses, and some forty or fifty of the enemy were swimming for their lives, but the rest were beneath the waters, or were riding across the other bank. Our men had ridden thirty miles. They were exhausted, and so were the horses, and so at one o'clock the cavalry fell back, marched through the jungle, and joining the rest of the expedition, found their tents pitched and baggage up at Bankee in their rear at three o'clock on the 31st.

The country into which the rebels fled contains no villages, and is quite uncultivated; and it is therefore anticipated that unless they surrender they must starve. Besides, we are told that Lord Clyde has applied for permission to attack them in Jung Bahadoor's dominions. A subsequent letter tells us that "The army is breaking up." The Commander-in-Chief is on his way back to Lucknow, having left a good brigade on the Nepal border.

The Nawab of Furruckabad, and several chiefs of minor note, surrendered at Raptée.

"They were attended by 200 armed men, who laid down their swords and fire-arms as they arrived at our side of the river. The great people came in on elephants and in palkees, and they were followed right into the head-quarters camp by a crowd of natives and idle soldiers. The case of the Nawab of Furruckabad is peculiar. In accordance with its information, and the general belief at the time, the Government of India, last April, excluded the Nawab from the benefits and rewards offered to the captor of the Nena, as one who was almost as guilty as that great criminal, on account of his ordering the massacre of women and children at Futteyghur, which is the station of Furruckabad. A price of £10,000 was set on his person, and he was expressly shut out by proclamation from all favour and amnesty. There were, indeed, people who said at the time that the Nawab had nothing to do with the massacre, and that he tried in vain to prevent it. That the Nawab went off with the enemy is notorious. In person he is a small delicately-framed man, with feminine hands and feet; his features, of the Oriental type, are regular, rather Jewish in character, but his eyes are fine, though somewhat dull. He was told to take a chair in Major Barrow's tent, and the commissioner then explained to him that he was to be sent a prisoner to Furruckabad to take his trial for murder. 'To kill men in war is fair, Nawab; but no one ought to murder defenceless women and children, no matter what the excuse, in war or peace.' 'The Commissioner says truly; if I have done so, let me suffer.' 'You know that you are considered guilty of the massacres at Futteyghur.' 'Yes; the best proof I can give that I do not consider myself guilty is, that I come here to take my trial, though you have already pronounced me guilty, and I have to prove my innocence.' 'I hope you can do so.' 'My trust is that I may, though it is difficult.' With his retinue were four or five elephants, which he handed over to the Commissioner. Amongst them was General Wheeler's sporting elephant, and not only to the Commissioner, but the General's mahout, who has been going about with the Nawab ever since the Cawnpore massacre. The man could tell us little about the actual murders, for he was not near the place, but he declared that the Nawab had been several times prevented coming over to us by the sepoy, who watched him closely, and who had threatened to kill him repeatedly."

Tantia Topce was still at large, and in company with Feroze Shah in the neighbourhood of Rintampore, in the hills lying between the Bhambas and the Chumbul, near the junction of those rivers. Ten thousand rupees reward is offered for Tantia's arrest, and a similar sum is offered for the arrest of the Rao Sahib.

On the 16th of January, Brigadier Walpole foiled a daring attempt

made by an army of between 20,000 and 30,000 rebels to enter Rohilcund. He defeated them with great slaughter. Nurput Singh, of Roheah, their commander, was killed, and all their guns fell into our hands.

In the Nizam's dominions, however, the aspect of affairs is far from satisfactory. The Rohillas are said to be committing ravages all over the country. It is also reported that the Nizam has insisted upon the immediate resignation of his minister, Salar Jung, who has throughout the insurrection been the staunch and steady friend of the British Government. Sir Hugh Rose had marched upon Adjunta and Jaulna, to operate against a body of 2,000 Rohilla marauders, and the whole Hyderabad Contingent was on the move. Colonel Campbell, while on his march towards Lonar, in Berar, was attacked by a body of Rohillas 3,000 strong, who captured the camels and baggage. Colonel Campbell, though wounded, only waited for reinforcements from Brigadier Hill, to attack the enemy in his turn. When they arrived, a sanguinary action ensued. The Rohillas left 250 men on the field, and then dispersed.

The Murree tribes of the Scinde frontier were becoming troublesome—but rather to their neighbours than to us.

Later inquiries into the Tinnevely riot show that the magistrate was blameless in the matter—the rioters manifesting the utmost determination to provoke him to the last resort, by deliberately closing every thoroughfare to the cemetery against the procession.

SOME NATIVES IN BENGAL have petitioned her Majesty, praying for the introduction of the Indian lotus in the national emblems of the rose, the thistle, and the shamrock.

CERTAIN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE have resolved upon sending competent agents to India, to examine and report upon various matters relative to the growth of cotton. They are to ascertain what commercial difficulties have to be removed, or facilities to be discovered; and to act for their principals as circumstances may require.

THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.—The Secretary of State for India in Council has just issued his regulations for the examination of candidates for admission to her Majesty's (no longer the Company's) Civil Service in India. An examination will be held in London in July next; and of the successful candidates, 26 will be selected for the Presidency of Bengal, 8 for that of Madras, and 7 for that of Bombay; in all, 41. The subjects to be got up for the examination are the language, literature, and history of England, Greece, Rome, France, Germany, and Italy; pure and mixed mathematics, natural science (chemistry, electricity, and magnetism, "natural history," geology, and mineralogy), logic, and mental and moral philosophy, Sanscrit and Arabic (both language and literature); 7,375 marks will be allotted, of which 1,500 to English and composition, and 1,250 to mathematics. A second examination must be passed by the selected candidates in Sanscrit, the vernacular dialect of India, the history and geography of India, the general principles of jurisprudence, the elements of Hindoo and Mahometan law, and in political economy. No candidates will be allowed to set sail for India until they have passed this further examination, or after they have attained the age of twenty-four years. They must also give good proof of their sound bodily health and good moral character. Lord Stanley has decided to allow £100 to each of the selected candidates to meet the expenses that must be incurred by them before they proceed to India. The age has been fixed at twenty-five for candidates who may pass their first examination in July, 1859; after that the age will be twenty-four.

ARMY MARKSMEN.—The Commander-in-chief recently issued a general order directing that prizes should be given for good shooting in the army. The results have been published. At the head of the list stands the Nottingham militia—first in all tests except that of marksmen, where the 2nd battalion of the Scots Fusilier Guards excel them by one. The Rifle Brigade is third, the 22nd, 35th, 36th and 11th regiments occupy the next places. Hence it follows that a militia regiment fires best by battalion and by companies, and only contains fewer first-rate marksmen by one, than the Scots Fusiliers; and that four line regiments are superior in all respects to the Guards, except the Scots Fusilier second battalion.

OUR SKEW STEAM FLEET.—On the 1st of January last there were 33 screw line-of-battle ships afloat, and 16 building or converting; 19 screw and 9 paddle frigates, and 6 building or converting; 9 screw block ships; 4 screw mortar ships; 38 screw and 35 paddle corvettes and sloops, and 9 building or converting; 3 screw and 21 paddle small vessels; 26 screw gun vessels; 161 screw gun boats and 1 building; 8 screw floating batteries; 4 screw and 38 paddle tenders; 13 screw and 2 paddle troop and store ships; and 1 screw and 4 paddle yachts; making in all 319 screw and 112 paddle vessels afloat, and 32 screw in course of building or converting.

DEATH OF A TRAFALGAR HERO.—Commander Peter Giles Pickernell died on Sunday last, at his residence at Blackheath, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. He entered the navy in 1790, and during his early career in the service was engaged in several gallant affairs against the enemy, capturing at different times eight privateers, mounting in all 60 guns. He was second lieutenant of the *Revenge* at the battle of Trafalgar, and when lieutenant of the same ship, in 1806, assisted at the capture of four French frigates. He commanded the *Gallant* and a division of gun-boats in the Walcheren expedition in 1809. The deceased officer was the oldest commander on the reserved half-pay list, his commission as lieutenant bearing date the 5th of July, 1809, and as commander the 4th of July, 1816. By his death, an out-pension of Greenwich Hospital is placed at the disposal of the Admiralty Board.

EMPLOYMENT FOR PENSIONERS.—The "Army and Navy Pensioners' Employment Society," has now appointed in the capacity of messengers, or commissionaires, a corps of wounded men from the Crimea and India, who are quite capable of going messages, conveying notes and parcels, or holding horses, &c. Their posts at present are—1. House of Commons and Westminster Hall. 2. Between Admiralty and Spring Gardens. 3. North side of Trafalgar Square, near the National Gallery. 4. Pall Mall, between the Army and Navy and Carlton Clubs. 5. The top of St. James's Street. 6. Between the top of the Haymarket and Regent Circus. 7. Centre of Regent Street, near Messrs. Ackermann's. The tariff of charges is extremely reasonable.

NEW SHELLS.—A new shell, called the "liquid fire shell," the invention of Captain Norton, has been tried at Chatham, with great success. The object of this new missile is to set on fire the sails, rigging, and even the hull of any vessel against which the shell is thrown. The shell is about three or four times the size of an ordinary conical rifle bullet, but is hollow, the interior being filled with a glass in which is contained the "liquid fire." This chemical substance is prepared from a secret in the possession of Captain Norton, but the chief ingredients are phosphorus dissolved in bi-sulphate of carbon, and hermetically sealed. Immediately on this shell striking any ignitable matter the glass is broken, and so powerful is the liquid that it almost instantaneously sets the object in a blaze. Captain Norton can undertake, with the same description of shells, but of larger size, to set fire to any line-of-battle ship in the navy. The next experiments undertaken were with a new description of rifle-shot, which has been named the "Spinster." This bullet, which can be fired by Captain Norton at a distance of no less than 1,800 yards, is intended for blowing up ammunition wagons, bags of gunpowder, or setting fire to the camp of an enemy. The bullet, which, in shape and size, resembles the Enfield rifle-ball, has a chemical substance attached to its base, which becomes ignited the instant it is fired, and remains burning long enough to do the execution for which it is intended.

THE UPPER CHAMBER OF HANOVER has agreed to forbid the exportation of horses. During the debate it was contended that any French attack on the Po and the Rhine would be a casus belli.

PAUPERISM.—£1,910,608 was the sum expended in 645 Unions during the half-year ended Michaelmas, 1858, of which £469,258 was for re-maintenance, and £1,441,350 for out-relief. The cost of relief to the irremovable paupers was 30.5 per cent. on the cost of relief of other paupers during the half-year, but during the half-year ended Michaelmas, 1857, the ratio was 28.4 per cent. 788,248 paupers were in receipt of relief on the last of July last, and this is given as a fair average of the number relieved in the half-year. The cost of re-maintenance and out-relief is 72 per cent. of the entire cost of the relief to the poor.

SUICIDE IN A TOMB.—In October last, at New Orleans, Sylvester Rupert, an English ship-carpenter, lost his little daughter; and not being able to buy a tomb, had her buried in a grave in Greenwood Cemetery. The loss of the child preyed heavily upon his mind. Being out of regular work, he began an employment in which his grief found silent expression. He bought a lot in the cemetery, and procuring bricks and other necessary materials, he built a tomb with his own hands. The tomb being finished, he disinterred the remains of his child, and placed them in the tomb. Instead of a slab at the mouth, he screwed a board into a wooden frame. On the board he neatly carved an inscription with a knife. This task accomplished, it was his frequent habit to visit the cemetery, and even to open the tomb. These visits continued until the 13th of January, when he entered it to quit it no more alive. Upon leaving the house in the morning he told his wife that, unless he obtained work, she would never see him again. In the evening he went to the cemetery, entered the tomb, and fastened the door on the inside, lay down by the coffin, drank a vial of laudanum, and died. The board did not fit the frame squarely, and the next morning his wife discovered him through the opening, dead.

IRELAND.

"MONSTER MEETING."—A monster meeting in favour of tenant-right, reform, &c., came off last week in the town of Thurles, Tipperary. There were between 2,000 and 3,000 people present. The Irish members mustered to the number of two, namely, the O'Donoghue of the Glens, and Mr. Blake, one of the representatives for the city of Waterford. The resolutions were framed upon the old model, with a few new additions. They called for the Tenant-right Bill whole and unadulterated, Mr. Bright's parliamentary reform measure, and the ballot—to obtain all of which the cause of independent opposition was to be played to the last card by the faithful few among the Irish Liberal members.

THE AFFAIRS OF THE LATE JOHN SADLER.—The protracted litigation between the official manager of the Tipperary Bank and the London and County Bank, relative to the ownership of the estates of the late John Sadler, was brought to a close on Saturday, so far as the legal tribunals are concerned. Judge Longfield, it will be remembered, declared the London and County Bank entitled to the proceeds of the sale of the Sadler estates in the Incumbered Estates Court, and it was against this decision that the official manager of the Tipperary Bank appealed to the Court of Chancery Appeal. After a lengthened argument on Saturday, the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Justice of Appeal delivered judgment, affirming the decision of Judge Longfield, by which the London and County Bank became entitled to a sum of about £70,000.

THE PROVINCES.

PAYING TOLL.—Two farmers having passed a toll, near Dawlish, without paying, the collector placed a chain across the road, and on their return demanded payment. His demand was unheeded as they galloped past. The chain, however, caught the legs of the foremost horse, and threw its rider (a Mr. Heywood) violently to the ground, severely fracturing his skull. He was conveyed to the infirmary at Teignmouth, where he died a few hours after his admission.

A BURGLAR IN PETTICOATS.—A young woman, with trinkets to sell, called at a house, near Exeter, and was admitted into the kitchen. While the cook was in a cupboard, the stranger turned the key upon her, and on the other servant attempting to re-open the door, the woman threw her down, and bound her with some cord, which she took from her pocket. She then made a hearty supper, ascended the stairs, and robbed the lady of the house of £20, and then decamped. A peculiarity in one of her teeth has led to her capture in London. She had formerly belonged to an equestrian troupe.

LIVERPOOL MERCHANT ABSCONDED.—A wine merchant of Liverpool has disappeared, to avoid a Customs prosecution, leaving liabilities to the extent of £50,000. He lost large sums on the Stock Exchange, it appears, and will be an extensive defaulter at the next settlement.

POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION AT MANCHESTER.—A meeting of an important character will be held in the Great Free Trade Hall in Manchester on Friday, the 4th of March. An address is to be presented to Mr. Aspinall Turner, M.P., thanking him for his services to the constituency during the past two years; and the triumphant majority of the electors who by their votes displaced Messrs. Gibson and Bright from the representation of the city at the general election in March, 1857, will take advantage of the occasion for the more important public object of declaring their adherence to the principle which then guided their conduct, and their opposition to the measure of parliamentary reform since proposed by Mr. Bright, on account of its unfairness and tendency to class favouritism. When it is recollected that at the last contest Sir John Pott and Mr. Turner polled respectively 8,368 and 7,834 votes, as against 5,588 and 5,458 recorded for Messrs. Gibson and Bright, this indication of feeling upon the most prominent political topic of the day will not be without influence upon the country.

AN UNUSUAL METHOD OF MURDER.—A boy in the service of a farmer of Hemsley, near Malton, observed a man dressed like a navvie breaking a hedge down, apparently to obtain fuel. The boy cautioned him to desist; but he took no notice. Next day the boy was sent by his master to catch a strayed horse, when he again met the navvie, who, annoyed at the boy's interference the day previous, resolved to have his revenge. The boy had a halter with him, which the navvie seized, tied it round his neck, and then proceeded to suspend him to a tree close by. He then set off at full speed, and has not since been heard of. The boy managed to sustain himself until his cries were heard by a passer-by, who cut him down, just as he became exhausted.

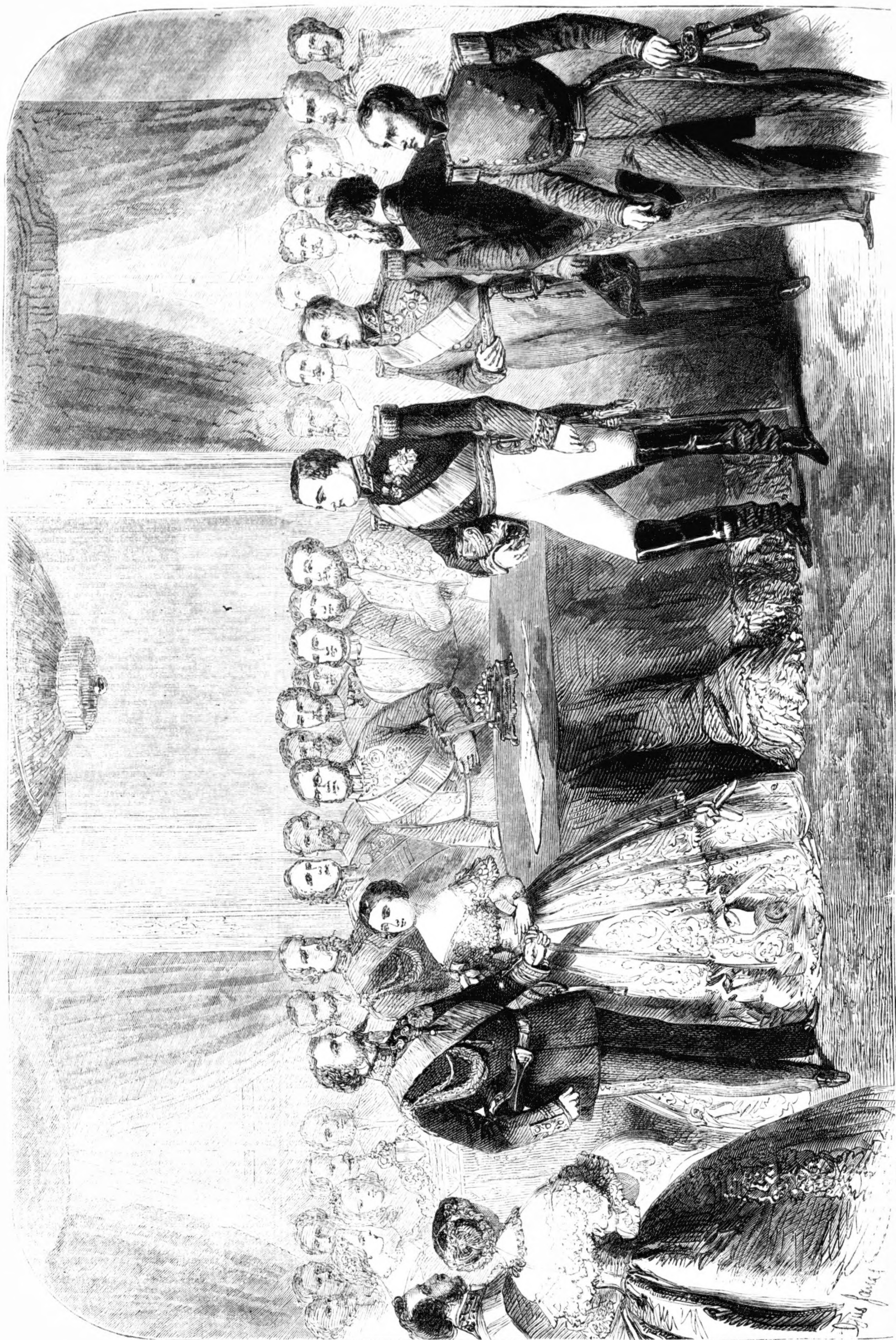
THE FATAL POACHING AFFRAY AT WHALLEY.—At Lancaster Assizes, on Friday, Sanderson, Holden, and Parker, were indicted for the wilful murder of James Eatough, when acting as gamekeeper on the property of Mr. Whalley, on the night of the 13th December last. An approver, named Reiley, described the proceedings of the poaching party, and the affray with the gamekeepers, during which Eatough, who was an old man, was frequently struck. The evidence of the approver was confirmed by that of the gamekeepers. The deceased lived twelve days after he was wounded. Mr. Justice Willes, in his charge to the jury, observed that if they thought the keepers, by excess of violence in attempting to arrest the men, had provoked the blows in hot blood which led to the death of the deceased, then the offence was only manslaughter. The jury took that merciful view of the offence, and found Sanderson and Holden guilty of manslaughter only, and acquitted Parker. Sanderson, who is an old poacher, was sentenced to ten years, and Holden to five years' penal servitude.

A GIPSY'S HOAX.—At Hales Owen last week, a middle-aged gipsy woman, called at the New Inn, and intimated to the landlord that a wedding in gipsy high-life was on the tapis. She stated that Monday was the day fixed upon for uniting in the bonds of wedlock the beautiful daughter of the late "King of the Gipsies" (who died about four years ago), and a member of the tribe, who was remarkable for his fine personage. In accordance with the dying request of the king, a quart pot full of sovereigns was to be spent upon the occasion; and the gipsy woman hinted at the probability of a large portion of the "quart" being spent in the house honoured by the presence of such august guests. A bride-cake was to be purchased for five guineas, port and sherry at 7s. per bottle were to be supplied ad lib., and the affair altogether was to be conducted on a scale of great liberality. Large gifts of lace, white falls, wedding favours, &c., to various ladies in the locality, were also talked about as prospective facts. The host of the New Inn prudently intimated that he should be ready to provide anything that might be required when the time arrived, if the necessary cash was forthcoming. Considerable excitement was occasioned in the town, and the entrée of the gipsies was looked forward to with great interest; but they did not arrive. In the course of the day rumours got abroad that they had bestowed their patronage upon another inn in the locality; but it was found that the same plausible tale had been foisted upon the landlord there, with similar results. The "Gipsy Queen" and her bridegroom were nowhere to be found; the few gipsies who are sometimes to be found round Hales Owen had disappeared, and those who had expected to see a grand and unique ceremonial were forced to conclude that the affair was altogether a hoax.

COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—A dreadful explosion of fire-damp took place on Saturday in Walthew House Colliery. In one of the divisions of the mine, there is a "goaf" (or stoppage to fence off some old workings) near to which Henry Fairhurst bored the coal for firing a blast; but as he bored into what is termed the "fast," or solid coals, the power was not sufficient to remove the hard mass, and the flame of the charge found its way into a "goaf" eight and a-half yards distant. In this "goaf" there must have been some foul air, which exploded; and six men—Ashurst, Henry and Peter Fairhurst, Reed, and James and John Berry, were blown against the side of the pit. John Berry was killed on the spot, James Berry had his arm broken in two places, Reed had his ankle dislocated, and the others were terribly bruised. Some of the stoppings of the works were blown down; and as the pit is a very large one, with plenty of air, it is fortunate the explosion did not travel beyond the "goaf" already mentioned, or the loss of life would have been terrible.

A HURRICANE.—A great storm swept over the counties of Durham and Northumberland on Wednesday week, lashing the rivers until they appeared like arms of the sea. The reaches of the Tyne had a very wild appearance, and small craft had great difficulty in getting a clear course. Four men were carrying away an anchor from the ship "Mary," when their boat capsized, and two of them were drowned. The gale was very severe at Sunderland. As a company of children were returning from school, and while passing the old walls known as the "Maggie," opposite Sunderland Church, in Church Street, the whole front wall fell with a tremendous crash, burying a boy and a girl in the ruins. The boy was killed; the girl was only slightly injured. A vessel was also nearly capsized in the river, and a good deal of other damage was done. Three houses were nearly demolished by the gale at Blyth; and we hear of telegraph wires being carried away.

OFFICER AND THIEF.—Lieut. A. Baillie, of the East India Engineers, has been detected in robbing one of his brother officers in barracks at Chatham. Considerable sums of money and other property had been stolen from the officers' quarters at the barracks, but so cleverly were the robberies effected that no clue could be obtained as to the guilty persons; though several of the officers' servants were dismissed on suspicion. At length, in consequence of a hint thrown out by Baillie's own servant, a watch was set, and Lieut. Baillie was discovered to have stolen a sum of money from the rooms occupied by Lieut. Manderson. He was placed under arrest, two sentries having the charge of him during the night; he succeeded in effecting his escape, and has not since been heard of. The accused is a very young officer.



SIGNING THE MARRIAGE-CONTRACT BETWEEN PRINCE NAPOLEON AND THE PRINCESS CLOTILDE.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. BLOU.)

SIGNING OF THE MARRIAGE CONTRACT BETWEEN PRINCE NAPOLEON AND PRINCESS CLOTILDE.

The engraving illustrates one of the most important of the many ceremonies attending the marriage of Prince Napoleon with the Princess Clotilde of Savoy. Could we have seen the signature of the bride elect, it would have told us much that we now can only surmise, and which our reports of bridal banquets, processions, receptions, and junketings generally, are rather intended to conceal than to betray. Marie Coupelle, who professes in many advertisements to read character by hand-writing, would here have found a splendid opportunity for displaying her skill. For our own part, we have made up our mind that the Princess's signature tells of much indecision and trembling. We also fancy we see the jaunty swaggering scrawl of *son Altesse Plon-plon*, conscious of being the gainer in the speculation. One thing is certain, that in France this marriage is by no means popular, not more so than among the better thinking class of Piedmontese. Indeed, if we may judge from what we hear on all sides, few

has also figures upon it, and a foliated pattern. To the left of the king, who forms the centre of our group, stands a female figure, in not very graceful attitude, bearing a sceptre in one hand and having the other resting on her hip. The remainder are but repetitions, to a great extent, of those already described, and require no further explanation.

STATUE OF CAPTAIN PECHELL.

This very spirited statue, a worthy addition to the numerous tributes called forth by the respect and affection felt for England's departed heroes, is from the chisel of Mr. W. Noble. The inhabitants of Brighton subscribed together, that a fitting memorial might be erected in honour of the young soldier, and the noble work that has resulted from their efforts has just been placed in the vestibule of the Pavilion. Captain Pechell was the only son of Admiral Sir George Pechell, M.P. The inscription on the pedestal is as follows:—"William Henry Cecil George Pechell, Captain in her Majesty's 77th Regiment, only son of



ANCIENT LEADEN FIGURES RECENTLY FOUND AT SHADWELL.

princes have ever succeeded in reaching such a height of unpopularity as his Imperial Highness, and this because it is believed that he exercises an undue control over affairs, and that this control is improperly used. People ask what, after all, are the great services rendered to France that she should be called upon to waste her blood and treasure to aggrandise Piedmont in return for the hand of a Sardinian princess? The relief of the oppressed subjects of the Pontifical Government and the independence of the Lombards, are not, they say, the real causes of the war Europe is threatened with. These are merely pretexts.

There is no doubt that the alliance has materially increased the political importance of Prince Napoleon, who has lately received a numerous deputation of Italian residents in Paris. A few days since a deputation of five Italians only proposed to wait upon him, and they were told that the Prince was prevented by political considerations from receiving them at that moment. The difficulties, whatever they were, seem to have been removed, for, since then, the Prince, though using cautious phraseology, made a speech on Italian affairs, in which the members of the deputation see a confirmation of their most ardent wishes. The members of the deputation were presented to the Princess Clotilde, who accepted from them a magnificent bouquet.

CURIOUS LEADEN FIGURES DISCOVERED AT SHADWELL.

A VERY considerable addition has been made during the winter to the singular leaden *signacula* found at Shadwell, which were the subject of a trial at Guildford. They are now on view at Mr. George Eastwood's, Haymarket, where they have been inspected by some of the most experienced antiquaries, who, while they one and all concur in asserting the perfect genuineness of these remarkable objects, do not fully agree in explaining the purpose for which they were made. Upon one point there is no dispute, and that is, that the figures date from Queen Mary's time, and were probably used in religious processions. Some of the badges resemble the earlier pilgrims' signs.

The centre figure shown in the illustration we give of these additions to archaeological science, is that of a king holding a sword in his left hand, and with the other pointing downward. The head is surmounted by a crown, the hair is long and flowing, the beard square in form, and the face altogether bears great resemblance to the effigies seen on some of our early Saxon coins. To the right of this figure is another, evidently a bishop, judging from the mitre which he wears; the dress is apparently extremely rich in ornamentation. Immediately in front of this figure stands a smaller one, also of an ecclesiastical, but having no inscription on its base like the others. Again, in front of this is another mitred statue, holding a sceptre of globular form at the top, and dressed in robes of costly material. To the left are two well-formed bottles with handles, the lesser one having winged figures around the body. The larger one

Vice-Admiral Sir George Brooke Pechell, Bart., M.P. for the borough of Brighton, killed before Sebastopol, Sept. 3, 1855, in the noble performance of his duty while leading his men in front of the advanced trench near the Redan. Aged 25 years. Erected by public subscription."

THE NEW MASONIC HALL AT EDINBURGH.

This handsome hall was opened on Thursday last, with all the ceremony peculiar to masonic rites. His Grace the Duke of Athole, Grand



STATUE OF CAPTAIN PECHELL, IN THE PAVILION AT BRIGHTON.—(M. NOBLE, SCULPTOR.)

Master of Scotland, presided at the inauguration. The first stone of the present structure was laid some eight or nine months since, and was made the occasion of great festivities in all the lodges of the northern metropolis. The hall is eighty feet long, thirty-eight feet wide, and thirty-six feet high, to the centre of the carved ceiling. It will be seen from our illustration, that it is a very handsome and noble apartment, of graceful proportions, receiving its light from the roof. At the south end are three beautiful stained glass windows, over which, in bold relief, is sculptured the figure of St. Andrew, supported on either side by the allegories of Faith, Hope, and Charity, the whole designed and executed by Mr. W. J. Thomas, of London.



THE NEW MASONIC HALL, EDINBURGH.—(D. BRYCE, ARCHT.)

An orchestra, with a handsome balustrade in front, occupies the northern extremity of the hall; above is a large space reserved for an organ. The architect is Mr. Bryce, of Edinburgh, to whom we are indebted for our sketch.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 83.

FIRST "COUNT OUT."

MR. ALCOCK, the member for East Surrey, has had the honour of the first "count out" of the session awarded to him. Mr. Alcock, during the recess, had studied the subject of our highways; and becoming deeply impressed with the fact that there needed some legislative enactment for the better management of the said highways, he determined himself to propose a bill as soon as Parliament should assemble. Now, it so happened that the Government had also had their thoughts directed to this subject, and had entrusted Mr. Gathorne Hardy, then Under Secretary for the Home Department, to prepare a measure, and it further happened that Mr. Hardy placed his bill upon the table of the House before Mr. Alcock could get an opportunity to present his. Mr. Alcock, however, was not induced to give up his legislative project, and therefore seized an opening to introduce his measure. He arose about the usual time for members to go to dinner; and as Mr. Alcock is not an attractive, though he is a fluent and vivacious speaker, the members naturally enough preferred their dinner to listening to a long speech from a dry speaker, on such a dry subject as the management of roads, especially as they knew, as everybody else knew, that it would lead to nothing. And so, after Mr. Alcock arose, the House dwindled away very soon to forty members—then to thirty-five—at which point an irresistible temptation presented itself to cut short Mr. Alcock's eloquence, and nip his legislative project in the bud. Thirty-five was rather too large a number to make things safe; but this was soon remedied by beckoning a few government members out, until the House was reduced to thirty, and then the "count" was tried on. Some member arose and called Mr. Speaker's attention to the fact that the number of members was below the constitutional requirement; whereupon Mr. Speaker ordered strangers to withdraw. Mr. Alcock then, in the full swing of his speech, dropped into his seat. Mr. May, the clerk at the table, turned his two-minutes sand-glass, and the door-keeper rang the bell. In the interval of two minutes a host of members rushed up from the dining-room to see what was up, thinking that the bell summoned them to a division. Some of these went in—for there are not a few members who refuse on constitutional grounds even to sanction "a count;" but the majority, when they discovered what was towards, stopped short of the door; and when the Speaker arose and counted the House, there were only thirty-nine members present. Whereupon he declared that the House *ipso facto* was adjourned. A merry laugh rang through the lobby—the door-keeper shouted, "Who goes home?"—Mr. Alcock packed up his voluminous papers, and the diners returned to dinner. And as it is hardly likely that the Honourable Gentleman will again try to introduce his measure, an evening was saved, and the country will not have to pay the cost of printing a bill which everybody knew could not pass. There are objections to a "count out" in some cases, no doubt; but in such a case as this its propriety is apparent. There was already a bill before the House, introduced by a member of the Government, who is in a far better position to originate legislation on such a subject than a private member can be. Mr. Alcock should have been contented to try to engraft his peculiar views upon the government bill in committee, and not waste the time of the House by introducing a conflicting measure of his own.

SCENE IN THE LOBBIES DURING A "COUNT."

The scene in the lobbies is rather a funny one when a "count-out" is tried. The diners, rushing up wiping their mouths with their napkins; the "whips" eagerly explaining the cause of the bell-ringing, and importunately urging members not to go in; and, in some cases, forcibly, amidst laughter on all sides, holding them back; the crowd peeping through the glass-doors to see how matters are going on inside; the anxiety manifested upon the countenances of those who have got up the "count;" and the joy and laughter when the doors are thrown open, and the few members inside, by rushing out, announce the fact that the "count" has succeeded, make up a scene which no pencil nor pen can portray. The only scene at all like it is that which occurs in the playground of a large public school, on some fine summer's afternoon, when the hour is nearing for school again to begin, and it becomes known that some manager, or patron, or "old boy," has gone in to crave of the master a holiday; and when in due time the monitor is sent for, and in a few minutes returns to announce that the request is granted. Perhaps no persons watch the "count" with more anxiety than the reporters, who sit perched up there in their gallery behind the chair. From their lofty position they can see pretty well all that goes on; and we may easily imagine how anxiously they watch the proceedings as the "count" goes on; and when Mr. Speaker in audible voice begins to count, and when the number gets too near to be pleasant, how blank they must look! "Thirty-seven! thirty-eight! thirty-nine!"—one more is wanting. "Is there another? No, by Jove!" Of course, the reporters being "strangers," there is no sign of joy or sorrow in the House, but in the "redacting room," below the gallery, it is easy to conceive they are merry enough over this unexpected release.

AN INOCCUPANT "COUNT."

We remember one "count out" which was inopportune, and very mortifying to the Government. A deal of formal business was on the paper that night which the Government was anxious to clear off; but as it was known to be all of it "unopposed," the Government supporters had most of them gone away. It was ten o'clock, about thirty members were present, the House had got steadily to work, and at about twelve o'clock, or half-past, it was reckoned that the business would be got through. But unfortunately, a young member, who had dined out, sauntered into the House, and seeing it so thin, and being rather full of wine, and by consequence full of fire, it occurred to him that he would "count it out." And so he walked up to the Speaker's chair, and without consultation had with any one, called Mr. Speaker's attention to the fact that there was not the constitutional number in the House. Mr. Speaker at first was deaf on that side of his head, and some member of the Government rushed round to prevent the repetition of the words. But before he could get near the Hon. Gentleman, he had repeated them in a more audible tone, and Mr. Speaker now was obliged to take notice of them. Gladly would he have shirked, but dared not—

"T would be recorded as a precedent,
And many an error, by the same example,
Would rush into the state."

During the interval of two minutes allowed, there was hurrying and scurrying in every direction, and every room and office was scoured out; but to no purpose. The London season was then at its height. Operas, theatres, balls, assemblies, and dinner parties were in full play; and so the House was, to the great chagrin of the Government, "counted out." This was a misuse of the privilege. The "count out" should be used to stop bores, not business—to save time, not to waste it.

MR. HOPE.

The lobby of the House of Commons is like the "Table of Contents" which is prefixed to a book. By studying the aspect of the lobby, you may generally tell what is to be the subject of debate inside the House. Lately, when a question was on the paper about the Foreign Office, Mr. Scott, the celebrated architect, and Mr. Barry, the son of Sir Charles, might be seen there, and the member most in request was Mr. Beresford Hope. Mr. Beresford Hope is specially addicted to architecture and the other fine arts; and whenever there is anything on the paper relative to these matters, the Hon. Member for Maidstone is sure to be fluttering about the lobby. Mr. Hope may be easily known. He is of middle height, has a black beard, an unusually large head, and wears a glass in his eye. He is of the celebrated merchant family of Hope, which is so well known in the European mercantile world, and reputed

to be worth no end of money; his father was the noted author of "Anastasius." To Mr. Hope it is that we are mainly indebted for that beautiful church in Margaret Street, in which we are shown what wondrous effect can be produced by simple English bricks, and how a Gothic church can be wedged into a closely-packed street, and made to harmonise therewith. Mr. Hope is a right scholarly man, and one of the ornaments of the House—given, it is true, to High Churchism, but, nevertheless, one whom, in our opinion, we could but ill spare. In speaking, Mr. Hope is eloquent and instructive, but he has a most singular manner, or rather mannerism, which very much mars his speeches. We have no sympathy with Mr. Hope's peculiar ecclesiastical notions, but still we like to see him here. He reminds us not a little of that church which he has built. That elegant structure lifting up its beautiful spire to heaven in close neighbourhood to the bustling, busy, worldly Oxford Street, teaches us that there are other things in the world to be thought of besides business, and in the House Mr. Beresford Hope is a standing protest against mere utilitarianism, which is too prevalent there. As Mr. Hope's church has rather a tinge of the old ecclesiasticalism of a by-gone age, so has Mr. Hope himself; but they both teach a valuable lesson, nevertheless.

MR. SPOONER.

On Monday our index told us that the church-rate question was coming on, for in the lobby white neckcloths prevailed, and solemn-looking faces. Mr. Spooner was also on the wing; and whenever you see Mr. Spooner unusually busy in the lobby, you may be sure that the Maynooth grant or the church-rate question is to be the subject of the evening. He is generally accompanied by a certain Mr. Nott, who is honorary secretary to "the Committee of Laymen," appointed to keep watch and ward over the interests of the church. Every habitué of the lobby knows Mr. Spooner. Once seen, the Hon. Member for North Warwickshire can never be forgotten. His white hair, his strongly-marked features, loose white neck-tie, twisted rather than tied round his neck, have been known about the House for many years. Mr. Spooner is now seventy-six years old, and there are people who say that he has not changed in appearance or opinions one whit since he stepped into political life, forty years ago, excepting that he has doffed his knee-breeches and adopted trousers. But though Mr. Spooner has not changed, all things else have changed, and all are changing still; and if he lives a few more years the rushing torrent of change will have left him high and dry and alone. If we have but little sympathy with Mr. Beresford Hope's views, we have less with Mr. Spooner's narrower creed; but still we should be sorry to miss him in his place, and grieve if we were no longer to see "that good gray head which all men knew."

THE GREAT EVENT CASTING ITS SHADOW BEFORE.

Monday was the first day that members could put their names down for places in the Speaker's and Ladies' Galleries for the reform debate, and before eleven o'clock every place was taken; and as to the Strangers' Gallery, we suppose that some 200 or 300 more than can possibly gain admission have got orders. For the former galleries members have to put the names of their friends down in a book, and they are admitted in the order in which they stand. For the latter, every member can give an order; and the rule is, first come first served; we may therefore expect to see St. Stephen's Hall crowded with strangers as early as ten or eleven o'clock on the eventful day.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

TRANSFER OF LANDED PROPERTY.

LORD BROUGHAM, in presenting a petition respecting copyhold conveyance, complained of the present state of the law on the subject, and expressed his intention of introducing a measure to ameliorate existing evils.

EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND.

The Earl of Airlie asked whether it was the intention of Government to introduce a measure for the improvement of education in Scotland, and reviewed the various attempts that had been made to legislate on the subject, which, he confessed, is rendered very difficult by the state of religious feeling.

The Earl of Derby stated, in reply, that the Lord Advocate was in communication with the Scotch members, and it must depend upon them whether anything further is attempted this session.

LORD CAMPBELL expressed himself hopeless of doing anything more than increase the salaries of schoolmasters.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE NEW PUBLIC OFFICES.

SIR B. HALL asked for the reasons which had guided the selection of Mr. Scott as architect of the new public offices.

LORD JOHN MANNERS replied at considerable length, setting forth the necessity for some decision. He promised ample time for consideration, and appealed to the House to show its confidence in the Executive in this matter.

SIR G. C. LEWIS, MR. TITE, MR. CONINGHAM, and LORD PALMERSTON reiterated their objections to the style of architecture adopted by the Government.

THE WEEDON INQUIRY.

MR. A. TURNER, as chairman of the Weedon Committee, explained why their report is not yet ready, and urged upon Government to expedite the production of some necessary returns.

Colonel BOLDBRO bore testimony to the assiduity with which the chairman had discharged his duties.

General PEARCE assured the Hon. Gentlemen he was equally anxious with themselves for the inquiry to be brought to a close.

THE INDIAN LOAN.

LORD STANLEY moved that the House go into committee on the Indian loan. He explained certain discrepancies between the statement he made in the House, and the parliamentary papers laid before the House. These discrepancies, he said, arose chiefly from the rupee being reckoned, in the abstract published, at 1s. 10d., and in his estimate at 2s., a difference which amounts to £2,081,000. Another cause of discrepancy consisted in the omission from one statement of numerous small items of receipt and expenditure included in the other. There was also an omission of 20,000 in his statement of the number of European troops in India, there having been arrivals to that amount since his return was made out. His calculations as to the proceeds of public works had been strictly verified. Authority had been given to Lord Canning to raise money by loan or debenture at 6 per cent.; but he was happy to state that the subscription to the 5 per cent. loan is increasing, and specially from native capitalists. He did not include in the debt the £1,000,000 of railway guarantees, because those undertakings are not a burden upon the revenue of India, but will be a source of profit. The £7,000,000 of deposits he had not included, because no interest is paid upon them. The total of the existing debt is £74,513,000—of which £23,675,000 is the old debt, £7,468,000 that borrowed in India, £7,000,000 of home debt, and £8,000,000 of debenture loan.

The House having then resolved itself into a committee, Sir C. WOOD, premising that he intended to offer no opposition to the loan, entered very copiously into the general financial state of India, of which he drew a gloomy picture. He noticed the disproportionate increase of expenditure; and as to the future, he thought there was a prospect rather of a reduction than of an increase in the land revenue, while that derived from opium was variable and precarious. The Chinese, having legalised the importation of opium, might sanction its cultivation in China, a measure which would seriously affect the Indian revenue. In spite of reducing the salaries of the European servants, and more extensively employing natives (to which latter expedient he offered various objections), he was of opinion that the civil expenditure was more likely to increase than diminish. The military expenditure was alone capable of retrenchment, but upon this point Lord Stanley had given the House no information, though it was evident that we must be prepared for a considerable increase of European forces. His calculation of the Indian liabilities exceeded that of Lord Stanley; including the present loan, he believed they amounted to £90,000,000.

SIR F. PERCY threw some still darker tints into the picture. He regarded the present state of the finances of India as alarming. The Indian debt, properly speaking, amounted, he said, to £110,676,953, which, taking the net revenue at £23,000,000, was a very large debt, being more than four years' revenue. He insisted that the Indian Government should be compelled to make the expenditure and the revenue balance each other. He advocated, upon political as well as economical grounds, the larger employment of native functionaries, and the creating a property in land, to be given to European settlers as well as natives. He was hopeful of India, under a good government, with a native agency.

MR. LIDDELL defended Lord Stanley's statements against the criticisms of Sir C. Wood.

MR. V. SMITH complained that Lord Stanley had held out nothing upon which the House could form an opinion. He (Mr. Smith) had, however, better hopes of the elasticity of the Indian land revenue than either Lord Stanley or Sir C. Wood, and he believed that fresh taxes might be levied. The civil expenditure might be diminished, but, as a large European force must be maintained in India for some years, he did not see how there could be a reduction of the military expenditure.

MR. W. VANSITTART, having been a resumption-officer in India, related facts showing the gross fabrications of firmans and surmises by holders of lakiraj (or rent-free) lands.

MR. CRAWFORD gave some details respecting Indian railways, showing that they were already highly remunerative; and as to the opium trade, China was not a country where opium could be profitably grown to any great extent.

MR. CARDWELL hoped that the stipulation in the Loan Act of last year providing that the pecuniary burdens of India should be borne by the Indian exchequer alone, would not be departed from; that India, when borrowed money, should borrow on its own security.

AFTER SIR H. WILLOUGHBY and MR. LOWE had made some observations, LORD STANLEY made a brief reply, and a resolution on which to found a bill was agreed to.

The Occasional Forms of Prayer Bill was read a third time and passed.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE IONIAN QUESTION.

LORD DERBY appealed to Lord Grey to postpone his motion for correspondence between the Colonial Secretary and the Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands. Lord Derby pleaded not only that a discussion of the present moment might deter the Ionian Assembly from accepting the propositions laid before them by Mr. Gladstone, but be unjust to that gentleman, as he is himself now on his way to England.

EARL GREY said he would postpone his motion on condition that, in the event of the Ionian Parliament agreeing to the resolutions proposed to them, such resolutions should not be submitted for her Majesty's ratification before the British Parliament had expressed its opinion upon them.

The Earl of DERBY gave the required pledge in a shape to satisfy Lord Grey. Lord Derby further said, in reply to a question from Earl Grey, that the Assembly had not yet come to a decision, and the proposals submitted by Mr. Gladstone had the sanction of the Government, though the resolutions themselves had not been seen till transmitted by Lord High Commissioner.

AFTER a few remarks by LORD CAMPBELL on the present condition of the clock-tower, the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CHURCH-RATES.

MR. SECRETARY WALPOLE asked leave to introduce a bill for the settlement of the church-rate question. First, he showed from returns presented in 1856, that out of 9,672 parishes, during a period of fifteen years, 5,250 granted the rate, and only 408 absolutely refused it; and there are also forty-one parishes which once refused the rate, but now pay it. The respective amounts received in 10,500 parishes were as follows:—from church-rates, £261,000; from endowments, £15,000; from voluntary subscriptions, £262,000. It further appears that in these 10,500 parishes there are 8,200 in which the landowners are principally churchmen, and only 1,600 in which they are equally divided; so much for the plea of conscience. Briefly sketching the various propositions which had been offered to legislation on this subject, to every one of which he acknowledged his obligation for any valuable hints, the Home Secretary proceeded to sketch the outlines of his plan. He proposed first to give power to the owners of land to charge their estates with the payment of an annual sum equivalent to the amount heretofore paid for church-rates within a certain limited period. Secondly, he designed to empower the owner of a life estate to create this charge as permanent lien on his property. By subsequent provisions, he proposed to establish precautions against any waste or misappropriation of the fund intended to maintain the fabric of the churches. Other clauses would give powers under which funds could be devised by will, or provided by voluntary benefactors or contributions, for the same purpose. Having thus indicated the sources from which the necessary funds might be derived, and which he encouraged him to believe would be furnished in ample abundance, the Right Hon. Secretary proceeded to indicate the steps he designed to propose for the final settlement of the controversies that had hitherto prevailed in so many localities. These were twofold. First, he should suggest that in those parishes where the voluntary charge on property and other benefactions supplied a fund equal to the average amount of the previous church-rate, the Queen in Council might declare the rate permanently extinguished in such localities. Secondly, in order to relieve the conscientious objections of dissenters, he proposed that when a church-rate was granted, the collectors should take with them a form expressing such objection, and every one who signed that paper should be free from all liability to the rate, but under the condition that he then forfeited all right to interfere in any future proceedings in the parochial vestries. This measure would, he hoped, provide the means of extinguishing all antagonism, by relieving all reluctant contributors from compulsory payments, without compromising the rights of the church or destroying the funds required for the maintenance of its fabric.

A general approval was given to the measure—particularly by Sir John Lubbock, Sir G. Grey, Sir A. Elton, Mr. Ball, and Sir G. Lewis; though they reserved a more decided opinion till the measure appeared in print.

LORD J. RUSSELL said he thought the measure was framed in a most conciliatory spirit; but it had always appeared to him that the whole case of the Established Church was, that it was for the general advantage of the community at large; that the placing a minister of the Gospel in a parish was a benefit, not only to churchmen, but to those who dissented from the Church; and the practical effect of making a distinction between the two would be to keep alive ill-blood in parishes.

MR. WALPOLE said, in reply to Mr. Mellor, that towns where church-rates were not levied would not be interfered with, and in cases where the land-lord paid the rate, the tenant's vote in the vestry would be transferred to him. Leave was then given to introduce the bill.

THE EAST INDIAN LOAN.

On the report upon the East Indian Loan, MR. SLANEY made a short speech, in which he said he thought there was every reason to hope and believe that if the revenues of India were duly developed—for which object little or nothing had been hitherto done—they would be amply sufficient to defray all expenses.

The report was agreed to, and leave was given to introduce a bill founded upon the resolution of the committee.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE NEW POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

THE DUKE OF ARGYLL called the attention of Lord Colchester to the inconvenience attending the new postal arrangements respecting unstamped letters.

LORD COLCHESTER replied that all new arrangements were attended with inconvenience at first, but he had no doubt that in time the system now introduced would be found to work well and without inconvenience to the public.

THE DUKE OF RICHMOND and LORD GRANVILLE said they thought the change open to serious objection.

LORD CAMPBELL observed that he was particularly interested in keeping unpaid letters out of his house, inasmuch as the common custom was, that defendants who had been served with writs out of the Queen's Bench got it into their heads that "John, Lord Campbell," had opened a correspondence with them, and therefore deemed it necessary to reply. On public grounds, however, he felt compelled to join in the recommendation that the new order should be rescinded.

SALE AND PURCHASE OF LAND.

LORD ST. LEONARDS drew the attention of the House to the report of the Commissioners for 1857 on the Registration of Title with Reference to the Sale and Purchase of Land; and criticised the bill which had been brought into the Lower House on the same subject.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR deprecated the anticipation of measures which would have to be discussed by the House in due course. With every respect for the great ability and learning of Lord St. Leonards, he thought the present discussion most irregular and inconvenient, and he hoped their Lordships would keep their minds perfectly unbiassed for the consideration of the measure when it came before them.

AFTER some observations from LORDS BROUGHAM and CRANWORTH, the matter dropped, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

LORD PALMERSTON ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

LORD PALMERSTON notified that on Friday (yesterday) upon the motion for going into committee of supply, he should invite attention to the position of affairs on the Continent, hoping that the Government would be able to afford the House some assurance that the peace of Europe would be preserved.

REPORTS ON EDUCATION.

MR. COWPER called attention to the circular of the Committee of Council on Education, dated the 22nd day of May, 1858, and moved that, the efficacy

the school inspection provided at the public cost depending mainly on the salary given to its results, the general reports of her Majesty's inspectors, when prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Committee of Council on Education, should continue to be laid upon the table of the House unaltered and unabridged; and that the detailed reports, tabulated according to districts, should be printed and made public as heretofore.

Mr. ADDERLEY remarked that the reports from the inspectors were very voluminous, and would involve a serious expense if printed unabridged. All the important details they contained were duly re-produced in the returns from the Committee of Council. He thought the digest now issued would be found sufficient for all public purposes.

After some conversation, in the course of which a preference for the publication of the inspectors' reports without abridgement was expressed by Mr. M. Gibson, Lord Palmerston, Lord J. Russell, and other members, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER suggested that, without passing any express resolution, the subject should be left in the hands of the Government.

The discussion was, however, still pursued for some time, but ultimately Mr. Cowper consented to withdraw his motion.

JAPAN AND THE SLAVE-TRADE.

Lord STANLEY answered questions in reference to India, and so did Mr. FITZGERALD in reference to Japan and the slave-trade. From these answers we learn that Government has no intention to prevent the residence of Europeans in certain new Indian territories without license; that nothing is yet known about the restoration of the principality of Dhar to its native rulers; that Lord Clarendon had written a despatch to the Portuguese Government, urging it to put an end to the slave trade at Mozambique; and that our new consuls and agents in Japan are to receive salaries varying from £324 to £1,800 a-year.

VOTERS' EXPENSES.

Mr. COLLIER moved for leave to introduce a bill to prohibit the payment of expenses of conveying voters to the poll at elections. This gave rise to a lively discussion respecting the bill of last year. Mr. Collier made an able speech in defence of the change, to which Mr. WALFORD, though he did not oppose the introduction of the bill, replied.

Lord PALMERSTON thought the conveyance of voters quite innocent and harmless, though not inexpensive.

Mr. COLLIER briefly replied, and leave was given to bring in the bill.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Little business of public importance was done on Wednesday. Mr. ALCOCK's Church-rates Commutation Bill being brought up for second reading. Mr. WALFORD suggested that it should be postponed till Monday.

Mr. ALCOCK made some opposition to this course, but at length consented to it.

Mr. COLLINS moved the second reading of his Elections Bill—the first clause of which proposes to assimilate the law relating to voting in Ireland with that of England; and the other clauses have for their object the shortening of notices at elections in the latter country.

After some observations from Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD, the second reading of this bill was postponed till Wednesday. The House then went into committee on the Manor Courts (Ireland) Bill.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord COLCHESTER, in reply to Lord Montagu, stated that the recent warrant, as to unpaid letters, had been withdrawn.

The Ecclesiastical Courts and Registries (Ireland) Bill was read a second time.

Lord BROUGHAM laid on the table a bill, allowing prisoners charged with certain criminal offences to give evidence at their own trials.

The measure was opposed by Lord CAMPBELL, but read, as a matter of course, for the first time.

Their Lordships then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The LORD ADVOCATE stated that he hoped before Easter to introduce a bill to improve the system of national education in Scotland.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir J. PAKINGTON said that several notices of motion were on the paper for the following day (Friday) which would command precedence of the committee of supply on the Navy Estimates, and among others the question which Lord Palmerston intended to raise respecting the state of foreign affairs. If these motions and the consequent discussions were prolonged after eight o'clock, he should in that case propose to postpone his statement respecting the naval estimates until Monday, when the promised introduction of the Parliamentary Reform Bill by the Chancellor of the Exchequer would stand over to the following Friday.

Lord PALMERSTON regarded the notification just given as signifying the readiness of the Government to avail themselves of any excuse for postponing their Reform Bill.

THE OATHS OF ALLEGIANCE, SUPREMACY, AND ABJURATION.

Mr. J. FITZGERALD moved that the House should go into committee to consider the oath required to be taken according to the act passed last session in place of the Oaths of Allegiance, Supremacy, and Abjuration.

Mr. FAGAN seconded the motion, which was supported by Mr. C. Fortescue, Lord J. Russell, Mr. Maguire, Mr. P. O'Brien, and Mr. V. Smith; and opposed by Mr. Adams, Mr. Whiteside, Mr. Newdegate, and Mr. Walford.

After a lengthened discussion, the House went into committee, and a resolution on which to found a bill modifying these oaths as far as Roman Catholics are concerned, was agreed to by a majority of 120 to 105.

Mr. CROOK moved for leave to introduce a bill to place the employment of women, young persons, and children, in bleaching and dyeing works, under the regulation of the Factories Act.

Some discussion ensued, after which the motion was lost by a majority of 108 to 30.

Some other business having been disposed of, the House adjourned.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

A TELEGRAM from Corfu, dated the 19th, says:—"The Ionian Parliament has rejected the projects of reform proposed by Mr. Gladstone. Mr. Gladstone has taken his departure from Corfu."

Mr. Gladstone, who was at Venice on Wednesday, and is to be in Turin next week, will arrive in London on the 10th or 11th of March.

MARYLEBONE ELECTION.—There was a spirited contest for Marylebone on Thursday. The candidates were Mr. Edwin James, Q.C., and Colonel Romilly. Great excitement prevailed as the hour for closing the poll approached. The following is the result, as stated by Mr. James's committee:—For James, 6,687; for Romilly, 3,311—majority for James, 3,376. When Mr. James was about to address the crowd assembled at the close of the poll, shouts of "The Queen!—the Queen!" rent the air, and her Majesty's royal cortege was seen approaching, with the outriders, down Portland Place; and as it turned round Devonshire Street, nearly to which point the crowd reached, tremendous hurrahs greeted the royal cavalcade, and great enthusiasm was exhibited. Mr. James afterwards addressed the assembly, and the returning officer intimated that the official declaration would be made next day.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—Sir John Ramsden is returned for the West Riding of Yorkshire, in the room of Lord Goderich, now Earl of Ripon. He was unopposed.—The Hon. John Cole has been returned for Enniskillen.—Worcestershire has elected Mr. Calhorne; and there is no doubt of Mr. James's return for Marylebone.

CHARMING SIMPLICITY.—The Earl of Derby has introduced a bill to enable her Majesty to exchange the advowson of the vicarage of Welton-cum-Melton, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, for the advowson of the rectory of Ecton, in Northamptonshire, in the possession of one Mistress Sophia Broadley, a spinster, of Welton House, Yorkshire. "As the proposed exchange" (the bill is thus artlessly worded), "by reason of the great value of the rectory of Ecton, would be for the benefit of the crown, her Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve thereof."

THE BROWNING AND MADAME JESSE WHITE MARIO.—The subjoined statement from Mr. and Mrs. Browning has been sent by one of their friends to the United States, with the desire that it should be laid before the American public through the newspaper press:—"Having seen a statement in the American newspapers that Madame Mario, late Miss Jessie Meriton White, has arrived in the United States, 'recommended by the Brownings,' &c., &c., to lecture on 'Orsini' and 'Italian Politics,' we feel ourselves forced to explain distinctly that, with a strong personal affection and esteem for Madame Mario, and a love for liberty and the democracy still better known to all who know us, we yet entirely dissent both from her views of Orsini and her opinions upon Piedmont, considering that every attack on the Piedmontese Government is levelled also against the general Italian cause. This is the first time we have noticed a printed observation on ourselves, and only a painful sense of duty constrains us to do so now."

MANNING THE NAVY.

The Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the best means of manning the navy has been published.

The first point to which the attention of the commissioners was directed, was the mode of manning the navy in time of peace. The system of continuous service, by which seamen are induced for certain advantages to engage themselves to serve continuously for a period of ten years, is highly approved of by the commissioners; and they look to the employment and training of boys for a gradual organisation of a permanent navy. At present, however, only about 500 of those who annually enter the navy pass through the training vessels.

A reserve of seamen should be maintained in the home ports, to complete the crews of ships put in commission, to relieve foreign stations, and as a prompt reserve in the event of a sudden armament. The number to be thus retained in the home ports should not be less than 4,000, besides those retained in the harbour guard-ships.

To encourage gunnery, the commissioners recommend that the pay of seamen-gunners be increased by one penny a day; and a period of five years' service as seamen-gunners should count as six years towards a long-service pension. Of the 4,000 men retained in the home ports, 1,000 should always be seamen-gunners.

The present condition of the royal navy next comes under notice. Her Majesty's service, it is granted, is not so popular as it should be. The commissioners therefore advise improvements in the arrangements of the hulks in which the men are lodged while their ships are fitting out; the increase of allowance of both bread and salt meat (the rate of payment for savings, however, to be diminished); that the bedding and mess utensils be issued as the hammocks now are, and that a suit of clothes be given to every man, on his first entering for ten years' continuous service. Other recommendations of a similar nature are made. The commissioners anticipate the best results from "the occasional promotion of a warrant officer to the quarter-deck—for distinguished service, combined with exemplary conduct; and it should not be limited to the warrant officers, but should be open, in the case of very signal and extraordinary services, to any seaman in your Majesty's navy."

Then as to the mode of manning the fleet on an emergency. Impressment is disposed of as impracticable, and the ballot is objected to. In our standing reserves, the commissioners counsel an increase of 5,000 men to the present reserve of marines in the home ports, and that the coast-guard be raised to 12,000 men. Naval coast-volunteers are not believed to be a reliable force for manning the fleet, as they cannot be carried more than a hundred leagues from shore. As seamen, the short service pensioners—seamen who have retired after ten years' service on a pension of 6d. a day—will never be numerous, but a large reserve could be formed out of the marines, if the principle were extended to them, and this the commissioners strongly recommend. But these reserves, estimated in all at 30,000, exclusive of the naval coast-volunteers, are believed to be insufficient; it is desirable to have a further force of from 20,000 to 30,000 seamen well trained in gunnery. A plan to obtain them is then proposed:—

"The coasting trade of this country employs 63,000 men, including masters. If we add the Baltic and Mediterranean trades and the voyages to the North American and other ports, we shall not have less than 100,000 men, who are never absent for any length of time from the ports of this country. We propose that not less than 20,000 such men, as may appear most suitable for the purpose, shall be selected from this number. This new body of men might be called the 'Royal Naval Volunteers.' The inducements which we propose to hold out to seamen to join this force will be—1. A payment at short periods. 2. A pension at the age of fifty to fifty-five. 3. Payment for time spent in practice. 4. Admission to the coast-guard. 5. Participation in the benefits of Greenwich Hospital. On their part, they would engage to practise gunnery, and to serve in case of emergency; and conditions would be framed to secure their coming forward to join the navy within a very short time after their services were required."

It is proposed that, at the end of each period of five years, it shall be in the option of any one to withdraw, and that the same option shall arise when a youth obtains the certificate of the Board of Trade, and becomes master or mate of a merchant ship. The only penalty on any one who retires will be the loss of his claim to a pension, unless he elect to continue the necessary contribution out of his own funds. This permission to retire will admit of a larger number of the whole merchant seamen of the country passing through the force, and so becoming trained in gunnery, while the country will not be charged with any additional payment on that account.

If these recommendations are carried out, and assuming that the coast-guard and naval coast-volunteers are raised to the full amount contemplated for those forces respectively, before the commission was issued, the commissioners estimate that her Majesty will have a reserve of 60,000 men, not including the addition of 5,000 men, which, it is said, might be made to the marines.

As a final resource, in case of actual danger to the country, compulsory service must remain her Majesty's prerogative, but the commissioners recommend that it shall only be called into operation in the case of danger to the country, declared by her Majesty in council, and that no impressed seaman should serve more than three years from the time of his entry on board ship; and that he should not be called upon for a second period of service until after the expiration of a time to be expressed in the statute.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

THE Army Estimates have been published. They call for little remark. The total of the vote is £11,568,000, against £11,577,000 voted last year. The whole Imperial force will be 229,000 men; the Home and Colonial army being 122,000, the Indian establishment being 107,000 strong. Of the latter, 15,000 are at home in depot. Seven regiments are to be withdrawn from India. The Royal Artillery force is to be increased by over 3,000 men.

LORD COWLEY IN LONDON.—Lord Cowley, her Majesty's ambassador at the Court of the Emperor Napoleon, arrived in London on Saturday evening from Paris, whence he had been summoned by the Cabinet. The necessity for his personal presence in London, can only be explained by renewed apprehensions for the peace of Europe. It may be that Lord Cowley's visit has reference, in some measure, to the approaching conferences on the Danubian question, but graver affairs are on the carpet. It is reported that Lord Cowley is to go to Vienna on a special mission.

LADY DELAMERE, second daughter of the Earl and Countess of Kinnoull, and wife of Lord Delamere, whom she married as the Hon. Hugh Cholmondeley, and who has since succeeded to the Barony, died last week. She was only thirty, and her illness had not caused any alarm until within a short time of her dissolution.

LORD DERBY will meet his Conservative supporters on the 1st of next month—that is to say, on the day after Mr. Disraeli has submitted his Reform Bill.

TWO NEW BARONETRIES are to be conferred—one on Mr. Cunard, the ship-owner, the other on Sir Charles Nicholson, of Australian reputation.

MR. CHARLES BINDLEY, well known as a writer on sporting subjects, under the nom de plume of "Harry Hecover," died at Brighton last week, in his sixty-third year. He was, we believe, originally an officer in the army.

SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE has accepted a mission to Rome, entrusted to him by "the board of deputies," on behalf of the boy Mortara. Sir Moses set out on Wednesday.

MR. THACKERAY lectured in the speech-room at Harrow last week, on the "Court and Times of George the Third." The whole school was present, with a select party of visitors. Mr. Thackeray is the lineal descendant of a former Head Master of Harrow, who presided over the school from 1740 to 1760.

THE "OPINIONE" states that the French police has seized some Orsini bombs in a box sent to the Princess Clotilde.

BERLIN JOURNALS speak of a matrimonial union between the Prince of Wales and the Princess Alexandrine, daughter of Prince Albert of Prussia and the Princess Marianne of the Netherlands. This latter is separated from her husband.

ADDRESSES TO THE QUEEN AND PRINCE CONSORT ON THE BIRTH OF THEIR GRANDCHILD.

THE Queen held a court on Monday, at Buckingham Palace, for the reception on the throne of an address of congratulation from the Corporation of the City of London upon the birth of her Majesty's grandson.

The Lord Mayor arrived at the palace at about three o'clock in his state coach, attended by his chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Bryant, the sword-bearer, mace-bearer, and accompanied by the sheriffs, aldermen, and officers of the Corporation. Ninety-four commoners were also present at the presentation of the address.

The Queen received the address on the throne. Her Majesty was attended by the Mistress of the Robes, the Lady-in-Waiting, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and numerous officers of her Majesty's court. The honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms lined the room.

The Corporation said in their address—

"We were permitted to offer to her Royal Highness upon her departure from her native country, our earnest wishes for her prosperity and happiness. We rejoice to believe that the wishes which, in common with our fellow-countrymen, we then expressed, are being fully realised, and that her Royal Highness, whom we love to think of as the Princess Royal of England, is the mother of one who may at some future day be the sovereign of a great and enlightened people."

"That the life of your Majesty may be long preserved to witness, in a second generation, the virtues so eminently displayed by your Majesty and your Royal Consort, is the earnest prayer of the citizens of London."

Her Majesty returned the following answer:—

"I receive with much pleasure the congratulations which you have offered to me upon the birth of a Prince, the son of my daughter, an event which I am happy to know is hailed with feelings of no less loyalty and affection by the people of her adopted country. And I thank you very sincerely for your renewed assurances of attachment to my person and family, and for the affectionate interest which you have expressed in my domestic happiness."

Retiring from the Throne-room, the corporation was conducted into the Green Drawing-room, where a similar address of congratulation was read to the Prince Consort. In his reply, the Prince said he hoped this "event" would "prove a fresh bond of union between England and Prussia, and tend to strengthen those ties of friendship which, in the interest of their common faith, should ever unite the two great Protestant nations of Europe."

The Mayor of Liverpool presented another address of congratulation, at her Majesty's levee on Wednesday.

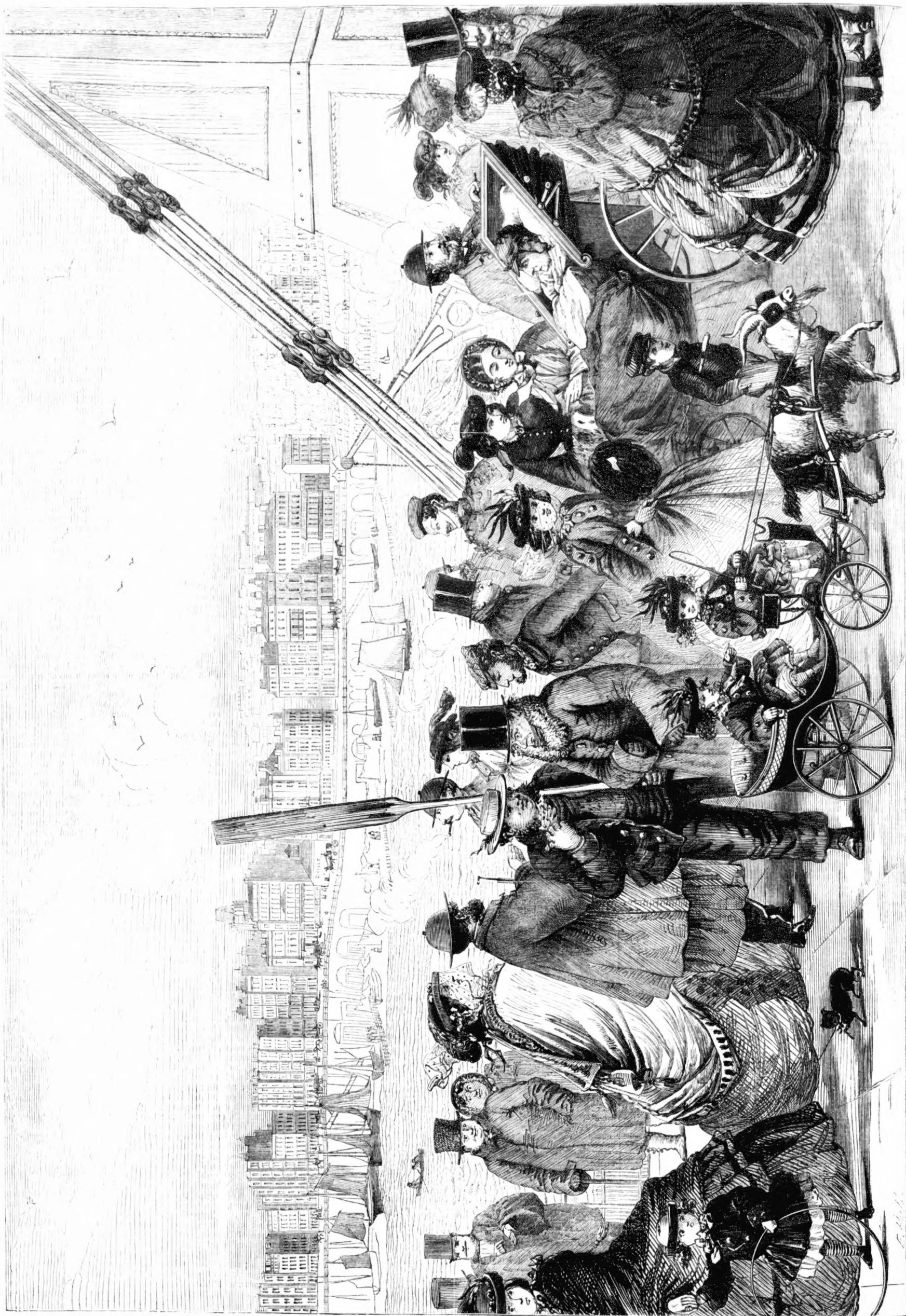
BRIGHTON.

As a very minute set-off against the thousand and one bad deeds which we delight in ascribing to his late Majesty George IV., let us give him the credit of having invented Brighton. It existed before, you say; yes, we know all about that: "Brightelmstone, a fishing-village, on the Sussex coast, population, &c." but grub and butterfly, gent and swell, comic English singer and leading Italian tenor, are not more distinct and different than are the fishing-village and the marine metropolis which is now known as Brighton. Chameleon-like, this queen of watering-places is constantly varying. I have known it all my life, and yet on each successive visit, and I am there three or four times a year, I find some alteration—some improvement in its well-known features. I remember, years ago, when from the round watch-house at the end of the Esplanade, there was a long open turnpike-road, without a house at either side until you came to a public-house—the "Traveller's Joy" it was called, and very aptly named, for they drew there amber-ale, brilliant enough to give joy to any number of travellers—and then you came to Hove Church, approaching it over a pathway through green fields, which led into the churchyard. Now there is no Hove at all!—nothing so low or common! Cliftonville, sir, if you please, the new suburb of Brighton! filled with neat little houses, very pretty and clean to look at, and awfully genteel! little houses, but not checked on that account in regard to porticos, which are enormous, supported on gigantic pillars, and casting their shadows all over the little tenements. Very brilliant, too, is Cliftonville in muslin blinds running on specially shiny brass rods; very brilliant in highly-polished doorsteps and scrapers of an intense blackness. Given to boarding-schools, too, is Cliftonville.

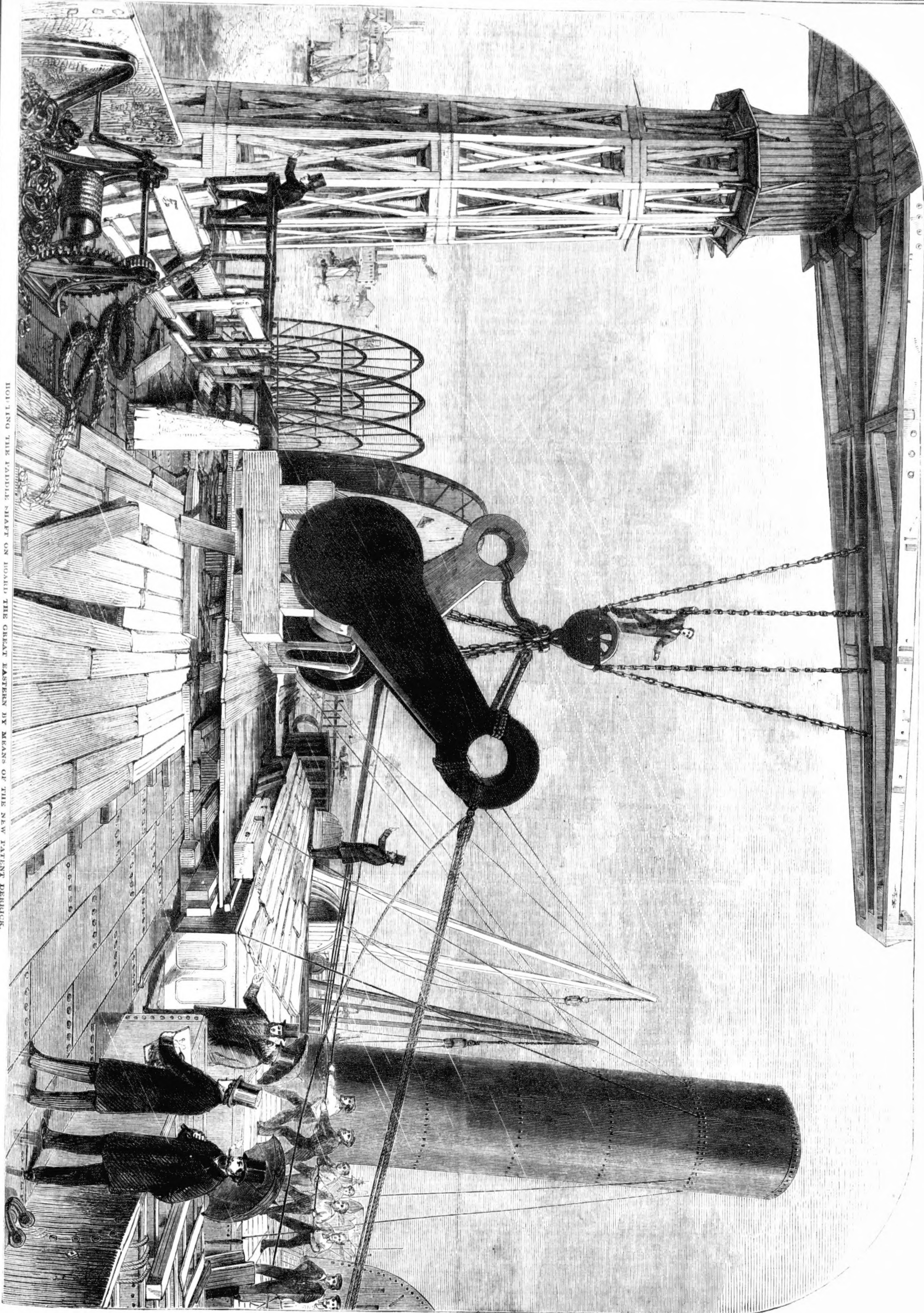
But it is with Brighton, and not Cliftonville, that I have to do; so here will we turn out this semi-afternoon from the Bedford Hotel on to the Chain Pier. All Brighton is there, of course, and a good deal of London, too, for it is Saturday, and there are innumerable bachelors, ay, and married couples too, who fly from the dreary solemnity of a London Sunday to genial, sunshiny Brighton, where on the Sabbath morn, as their taste incline, they can either go and indulge in genuflection, and learn the very latest Puseyite invention from young Mr. Waggoner, or run off and groan at Rome, and hint at scarlet ladies sitting on seven hills, and generally misbehaving themselves, in the genial society of Mr. Peter Weskitt. Coming this way is a type of your regular Brighton man—round hat with flat brim, round face with wing whiskers and slight moustache, flat cravat with horseshoe pin, enormous pegtops, close-fitting short jacket buttoned across the chest, and laced-up boots with figured toes. I know him and his life—up in the morning at eight, down to Brill's, swim, home to breakfast, out with the Brighton or Brookside harriers, home early, lunch at Mutton's; then Esplanade, up and down, up and down, for hours; small, rapid, inane talk, with some other men worse than himself; many leers at many girls; small dinner, and billiard-room and pipe all night. Here are the belles of the place. You know them—the Miss Buttercups? Of course, we all know them. How artfully they play their cards! They're talking sympathy now to poor old Colonel Gopu there in the wheel-chair, who lost his liver in India, and has lost his heart at Brighton, whether he has come for valetudinarian purposes. The Buttercups do this because they know that Pratt Midway, the young millionaire and latest arrival, is mawkish and sentimentally inclined, and they think it will look well in his eyes; whereas a few days ago, when Jimmy McUnicorn, the Duke of Kewbridge's aide-de-camp, and young Spoonbill, were here, the Buttercups cut old Gopu dead, and were for ever "over the downs and far away" on hired horses riding with the gallant officers.

Here is another type of Brighton haunter, this old man, pushing towards us at this sharp pace. He is one of those who come regularly down every year for a month, and seem always on the look-out to secure their money's worth of health. These old gentlemen go through awful tortures in shampooing baths, where they are seized upon by stalwart attendants, and so kneaded, and pinched, and thumped, and cracked that their wretched old bones ache for hours after—but they think it healthy—and persevere; and then they go for long walks, not long in distance, but many miles compressed into perpetual sharp turns; they invariably walk in the teeth of the wind, and ramming their hats on their heads, open eyes, mouth, and nostrils, and endeavour to inhale every breath that blows. You will meet them on early mornings gasping round the race-course, staggering faintly over the South Downs on their way to Ovingdean, or completely done up, taking refreshment at that little inn at Rottingdean, so pleasantly situated in front of the sea.

Of children there are thousands in Brighton, though the infantile population hardly flourishes so much there as at Ramsgate and other watering-places; you will find, however, quite sufficient trouble in making your way through the goat-chaisses, the hoops, the perambulators, and other articles sacred to childhood. Brighton is a great resort of the foreigner; here weareth he his cloak thrown over his shoulder as is the fashion of his native land, here oglet he the young "meess," here condescendeth he to play the piano, to pinch the guitar, to sound the cornet, at per hour! And here, too, come the cloudy-complexioned, bright-eyed, hook-nosed, jewelled sons and daughters of Israel in the greatest force; nor is there perhaps a more refreshing sight throughout the British dominions than a Brighton one-horse open fly entirely filled by Mr. Lazarus, of Petticoat Lane, smoking a Whitechapel cheroot in the very faces of those aristocrats who pretend to sneer at and despise him!



BRIGHTON, FEBRUARY, 1859.



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"* * We have received the following letter in reference to the 'notice' printed in the two last numbers of the 'Illustrated Times.' The Waterford newspaper offers an excuse, which, though it may hold good so far as he is concerned, does not apply to places at a considerably less distance from London than Waterford happens to be.

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'ILLUSTRATED TIMES,'

"Waterford, Feb. 21, 1859.

"I HAVE seen with some surprise a notice in your paper of the 19th, that newspapers charging 3d. for the 'Illustrated Times' are 'guilty of a fraud on the public.' I trust, in justice to the country trade, you will allow the following explanation to appear in your columns. At places a considerable distance from London, it is impossible to get unstamped papers on Saturday by any means except the post; and even if it were possible, the cost of carriage on small parcels would be quite as high. As seven copies of the 'Illustrated Times' weigh very nearly a pound (the postage on which is fourpence), the cost of postage is a little more than a halfpenny each copy. The country newsagent has then the three following courses open—to get stamped papers, and sell them at 3d.; to get unstamped by post, and sell them at 3d.; or to get unstamped by slow parcel, arriving on Monday or Tuesday, and sell them at 2d. Very few customers would choose to wait for this last, consequently the first two courses only remain open to the newsagent. Now, if stamped papers at 3d., and unstamped papers at 3d., are placed before the public, nine out of ten will take the latter and save the halfpenny. If any one considers it an 'imposition' to be charged more than the market price, he is quite at liberty to take the stamped one, but no reasonable person will expect the newsagent to buy a paper for 2d. (trade price), pay a fraction over a halfpenny for postage, and then sell it for 2d.

"A COUNTRY NEWSAGENT."

With the ILLUSTRATED TIMES of Saturday next, will be issued a Supplement, showing at one view

SOME OF THE MOST STRIKING INEQUALITIES OF THE PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

All the details of the Ministerial Reform Bill will be given in the number of the Paper by which this Supplement is accompanied.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1859.

THE PRINCIPALITIES.

It seems not improbable that the recent election in these provinces may supply what was alone wanting to make war certain—another occasion for dispute between France and Austria. As if to ensure hostilities, an altogether unexpected fact has turned up there. Moldavia and Wallachia, forbidden to unite in form, have—by electing the same chief, Couza—gone far to unite themselves in fact. On this point, as on the Italian question, it behoves the British people to be prepared with some definite expression of opinion. The situation is critical; Lord Palmerston knows as much, and will use the knowledge; and before long, every domestic reform may be made impossible by the necessity of watching a great war, and the feverish curiosity which must inevitably follow as to whether or no we are to be dragged in.

In this repeated expression of the determination of the politicians of these provinces to be united, we see another development of that feeling of "nationality" which is doing so much in the world just now. It is worth noticing, that that feeling is potent where there is even no real nationality to fall back upon, which is the case with the Roumans as with the Ionians. Some traditions which never took practical shape—considerations of language, viewed without reference to actual history—these are the influences which produce what is now-a-days called a "national" movement. But there is something else to be considered in the world: it is the "political" side of affairs—that is to say, the influences depending upon conquest, upon neighbourhood, and upon the relation of the people claiming to be a nationality to the whole European system. For we need not say that the inevitable tendency of an age of commerce and railways is to subordinate parts to wholes—to make union prevail over isolation in a large sense; the machinery for doing which is found in the political organisation which time and events have enabled to form themselves over large surfaces. It is in the course of the working of this tendency, that Burgundy, Brittany, &c., have been merged into parts of France; and that the empires of Great Britain, Russia, and others have absorbed various forms of national life, which were once individualities, and which are still cherished in the memories of thousands.

When we apply these facts to the question of the Principalities, the result would seem to be that a Rouman nationality is not an object for which Europe is bound to make any sacrifices of its convenience. And, indeed, the union of Moldavia and Wallachia, made ever so absolute, would not result in a nationality of the best kind, since independence and a native sovereignty are impossibilities from the geographical position of the state. A foreign prince is already asked for by

the supporters of Couza, as his proper substitute. Now, union, under a foreign prince, was viewed by England among other Powers, at the Conference, as conditions which would infallibly lead to the dependence of the Principalities on states unfavourable to the pretensions of Turkey, with which Power the *suzerainty* of Moldavia and Wallachia historically rests. What, then, is the new point opened by the last election? Simply this: whether England will remain firm to the principles of that conference in the approaching crisis, when Austria is likely to find herself face to face with France and Russia in the matter? What we are threatened with in Europe, in short, is another cause of war in addition to those existing already; and we may not find it so easy to practise non-intervention in a controversy involving Turkey and the Eastern question, as in one which—lying out of our immediate way—gives us an opportunity of honourably keeping ourselves clear. We have always professed ourselves bound to a definite policy in the Eastern question: to the support of Turkey, in short—the cause of Great Britain in the last war.

It is impossible to lay down definite principles of action in the present state of this matter. But it may be as well to see how it has changed since we last discussed the Principalities, and expressed ourselves satisfied with the postponement of their union, indefinitely, if not altogether. The new fact is this double election, which (obvious as it seems) never, that we remember, figured among the possibilities announced by our prophets. Is it good at law? If this be so (and, as yet, we have not seen the contrary proved), there is no denying that our position will require overhauling. If, without breaking the public law, the Principalities can effect a *de facto* union, may it not be advisable to accept the position and make the most of it, doing the next best we can for Turkey in the new circumstances? This would seem the practical policy; only that it is tantamount to another admission that the cause of Turkey is necessarily down-hill. Meanwhile, it is liable to be interrupted by a decided course of action on Austria's or Turkey's own part; and then, the whole question, supposed to have been settled for ever so long by the Russian war, opens again! We are now finding more reasons for condemning the peace as hasty and ill-considered, than were put forward at the time. And Lord Palmerston, after all the *clat* of his services on that occasion, is now eager to profit by complications which are in great part due to his own incomplete way of doing his work. We thought that he would not go shooting at Compiègne without making pretty sure of a good bag!

THE GREAT EASTERN AND THE PATENT DERRICK.

The patent derrick demonstrated its capabilities in an almost unexpected manner last week in lifting from the shore the intermediate shaft and cranks of the *Great Eastern*, transporting that vast mass of iron (forty tons) across the river to the side of the ship, hoisting it high enough to clear the deck of the leviathan, and safely depositing it upon the temporary cradle prepared for its reception. This operation was performed by the small derrick in little more than an hour.

Any one unaccustomed to engineering operations, or whose ideas of magnitude were susceptible of being misled by the enormous size of the *Great Eastern* itself, would perhaps have failed to observe that anything uncommon was in course of accomplishment; and this impression would have been confirmed by the calmness of all the parties engaged, the absence of any noise or confusion, and the celerity with which the whole thing was done. But had he previously considered the mass of iron as it lay on shore—its weight, its peculiar shape, and gigantic size; had he carefully estimated the height to which it had to be lifted, he would have become aware that it was an event of no ordinary interest, accomplished as it was without the slightest hitch of any kind. We might enlarge, were it necessary, upon almost every stage of the process; but it will be sufficient to say that, so minutely did every point appear to have been studied and prepared for, that its accomplishment was more like the repetition of a process which long custom had rendered familiar than one which was unprecedented.

To realise an idea, however, of the utility of the derrick in this transaction, we must look for a moment to the means which would have been required for the accomplishment of this work, had it not been in existence. In the first place, it would have been necessary to have erected near the shaft, on shore, a crane or other hoisting apparatus of great power, in order to deposit it upon the deck of the vessel prepared to convey it to the *Great Eastern*. This apparatus would have been a work of much time and expense, and would possibly have been useless for any subsequent purpose. The lighter which was to receive the crank would also have to be specially prepared. The other hoisting apparatus, still more powerful, would have had to be constructed upon the deck of the *Great Eastern* itself, calculated not only to raise it to the height of the decks of that ship, but also to swing it round to the place prepared for its deposit. All these expensive and tedious constructions and arrangements would have had to be prepared and employed but for the derrick, which placed the crank on board in an hour. Had the large derrick now building at Blackwall been completed, and ready for use, the result would have been still more satisfactory; for then the crank could have been not only deposited on board the vessel, but forthwith lowered down into its bearings so as to be adjusted at once by the engineer; and, supposing steam up and all else in order, could have been actually in use for the propulsion of the ship within a few hours.

Something must be added for the shaft and crank, a piece of work so enormous that of all the wrought-iron workers in the empire, only one firm offered to undertake it—Messrs. Fulton and Neilson, of the Lancefield Forge, Glasgow. Even these gentlemen failed in their first attempts.

The first shaft was made in 1856. It was sent to the great ship works, and on being subjected to heating and cooling tests, certain flaws, the existence of which had been known prior to its quitting Scotland, were developed so far as to cause its rejection. This shaft, which has an enormous double crank at its centre, lies in the Glasgow Forge Works, cut in two through the centre of the crank by a slotting machine. This cut, presenting a solid face of between two and three feet square, shows perfect soundness at that part. The flaws are at the crank necks and arms, where the cross slabs of metal are laid on to weld up to the main shaft and the crank pin.

Upon the occurrence of this first failure, the Lancefield Forge Company "tried again," and again were they unsuccessful. Portions of this second shaft were then worked up with new iron, and the result was the successful production of the shaft now on board the *Great Eastern*.

This shaft weighed, as forged, without its separate end cranks, upwards of thirty tons. The price charged was considerably above £100 per ton, but even at this enormous rate the loss to the makers must have been great. However, it is not a little to have accomplished so enormous a work.

THE STATE OF TRADE.—The Board of Trade returns for the month of December last, and for last year, are issued. They show a complete recovery of trade from the calamity of 1857. Our exports of British produce and manufacture, which in 1856 amounted to £115,826,948, were in 1858 nearly a million in excess of that sum; but the average of the whole year does not come up quite to that of the early part of 1857. The exports in December last amounted to £10,058,769; in the corresponding month of 1857 they were only £7,148,041. The value of the principal articles imported in 1858 was £115,218,811, being nearly twenty millions under that of 1857, and seven millions and a half less than in 1856.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY held her first levee, in St. James's Palace, on Wednesday. The levee was most numerous attended.

THE PRINCESS FREDERICK-WILLIAM will re-visit England in May, and will remain, should nothing occur to alter the arrangement, till after the Queen's birthday. It is believed at Berlin that the Prince Consort will be present at the christening of his grandson.

THE TAY has been greatly flooded lately.

THE WILLIAM AND MARY COLLEGE, at Williamsburg, U.S., has been destroyed by fire.

DR. RUSSELL, the Special Correspondent of "The Times" in India, is about to return home, we hear.

A GRATUITY of £500 is to be voted to Commander William Rodger, on account of his patent small pea anchor, now generally used in the navy, and £300 to Mr. Clifford, as a reward for his invention for lowering ships' boats.

A MOTION FOR INTRODUCING THE GUILLOTINE in capital executions has been passed in the Hanoverian Chambers. The proposal was strongly resisted by the clergy.

THE QUANTITY OF RAIN which fell near London in the past year, was less than in any other year of the present century. According to the "Gardener's Chronicle," the "arrear of rain" up to the 1st of January last, was 11.84 inches. It remains to be seen whether this deficiency will be made up in one year, or spread over several years.

THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY has ordered twenty-five guineas to be placed in the hands of a committee to procure a testimonial for Auguste Balmat, of Chamouni, in order to record their appreciation of the important services rendered by him to many scientific explorers around Mont Blanc. The testimonial is to be presented to Balmat in the name of the Royal Society.

THE UNCLAIMED DIVIDENDS in the Bank of England on the 5th instant amounted to £1,069,374 12s., of which £926,450 12s. 6d. was advanced to the Government.

THE NEW YORK CATHEDRAL, now in course of erection, is twenty feet wider and thirty feet higher than York Minster: the nave is three feet wider and nearly forty feet higher than St. Paul's, London. It will be the handsomest ecclesiastical edifice in the States.

THE NATIONAL TROPHY COMMEMORATIVE OF WALLACE, at Stirling, is to be modelled after a design by Mr. N. Paton. A lion bends over a prostrate figure, whose body terminates in the coil of a serpent, the right hand grasping a broken sword, and the left a broken chain, of which a portion hangs from the neck of the lion.

MR. REDGRAVE, at the inaugural meeting of the Brighton School of Practical Art, assured the auditory that there were now between 70,000 and 80,000 pupils connected with the London School, being 30,000 more than in the previous year.

THE HANDEL COMMEMORATION is to improve the aspect of the great orchestra at the Crystal Palace; and the centre transept will be covered with a decorated "velarium," after the fashion of the Roman amphitheatres. An allegorical painting, of which the general idea has been sketched out by Mr. D. Roberts, R.A., will take the place of the bed-tick that encloses the tropical department at present.

A CAPACIOUS MUSEUM, for the display of the productions of India, is to be provided in the New Indian Office, where the late Dr. Forbes Royle's labours will be displayed.

MADAME VICTOIRE BALFE made her appearance at the Theatre-Regio, Turin, as Amina in the "Sonnambula," with great success. At the end of each act she was called three times before the footlights.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER has appointed the Rev. Henry White, Curate of St. James's, Dover, to be incumbent of the Savoy Church in the Strand.

IN THE LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF RIGA is an almost unknown manuscript of the great composer Haydn—a quite finished opera buff. This manuscript was presented to the library by Prince Esterhazy. Haydn, it is well known, was for many years "Kapellmeister" in the Esterhazy family; and it is thought the archives of Eisenstadt—the seat of the prince—may contain many such treasures as the one now in Riga.

ANOTHER NEW BOOK OF M. A. DE LAMARTINE has just been ushered into the world. It is entitled "Histoire de César," and destined to form the fifth volume of the "Vie des Grands Hommes," which the author is publishing at present.

A STATUE OF OLIVER GOLDSMITH is about to be erected at Dublin. The proposition came from the Earl of Carlisle, with an offer of £100.

UPWARDS OF 1,000 RIFLES, picked up in the Crimea, and chiefly belonging to the Guards, have lately arrived at Stirling from London, and been lodged in the armoury there.

THE REGISTERED BIRTHS in London in 1858 amounted to 88,620; the deaths amounted to 63,882, in the fifty-two weeks; and the increase of the people in this way was 24,738.

MARY NEWELL, who was tried at the Berkshire winter assizes, and sentenced to death, for the wilful murder of her child, by drowning in the Thames, near Reading, has become lunatic from grief.

A PITMAN, at Durham, was firing a wedding salvo, when he placed an overcharge of powder into the gun, and fired it without putting in any wadding or ramming the ammunition home. The recoil of the gun was so great as to knock him backwards, the stock striking him in the bowels and causing such injuries that he died two days afterwards.

THE THEATRE DU CIRQUE at St. Petersburg has been destroyed by fire.

MISS ATHERTON, of Kersall, Broughton, has given £5,000 to the Manchester Ragged and Industrial School.

A LARGE MILITARY FORAGE STORE at Vincennes was burnt on Friday evening. Two-thirds of the stock of hay and straw were consumed. The loss is estimated at 200,000 francs. The fire is believed to have been caused wilfully.

OF THE ACCIDENTAL DEATHS in London, during 1858, 755 were by fractures, contusions, and wounds, inflicted in various ways; 309 were by burns and scalds; 235 were by drowning; and 230 by suffocation in bed and otherwise.

AN ARTICLE in the last number of the "Revue des Deux Mondes," signed "V. de Mars," and entitled "De l'emploi de la Marine dans les Guerres Continentales," is attributed to the pen of the Prince de Joinville.

THE GENERAL COMMANDING-IN-CHIEF, it appears from the army estimates, receives about nine guineas a day, or £3,458 a year; and each of his aides-de-camp receives £1 18s. a day, or £693 10s. a year. The Military Secretary has £2,000, and the Adjutant-General £1,383 a year.

HORSESHOES ARE NOW MADE BY MACHINERY, at Troy, in the State of New York.

THE FORTIFICATION OF THE TAY is contemplated by the Government.

THE WINE-GROWERS AND DEALERS at Jerez, Spain, are urging their Government to reduce the duty upon British manufactures, so as to induce the English Government to reduce the prohibitive duties upon their wines.

CUBA contains about 45,000 square miles, and has thirty-two inhabitants to the square mile.

LORD MALMESBURY has appointed Captain Francis Howard Vyse, late of the Blues, to be consul at Jeddo, in Japan.

THE ENGINE of her Majesty's steamer Nile, anchored in Queenstown harbour, burst on Thursday week, killing the engineer, and injuring four of the crew.

A SERVANT GIRL, at Lytham, fainted as she was carrying a wash-hand basin, which in falling she broke: one of the pieces entered the jugular vein, and caused her almost instant death.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY have obtained leave to bring in a bill to "alter and amend the acts relating to the Atlantic Telegraph Company, and to enable the company to raise additional capital, and for other purposes."

THE REV. DR. HOOK, Vicar of Leeds, is to be the new Dean of Chichester. LORD LYONS has left England for America, to succeed Lord Napier as British Minister at Washington.

THE MUSICAL FESTIVAL, which will assemble in the Exhibition Palace of the Champs Elysees—7,000 musicians from all points of France—will take place on the 11th, 12th, and 13th of March next.

THREE HUNDRED AND THREE BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS were published in Great Britain in January.

THE TOWN OF SAMSON, on the Turkish side of the Black Sea, has been almost entirely destroyed by fire. A conflagration has also burned down forty-five shops and several dwelling-houses at Trebizond.

M. DE LA GUERRONNIERE has received the sum of 10,000 francs for his little pamphlet, "Napoleon III. and Italy," from the publisher, M. Didot.

ORDERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED to the officials having charge of the English portion of the National Gallery and Vernon collection of paintings at Marlborough House, to prepare for their removal to the building erected for their reception at Kensington Gore, where they are to be exhibited to the public at Easter.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

I've been reading young Bulwer, and smoking a pipe,
As excitement and sedative; but I must own
That the former has conquered, and nothing but ripe
Lip, downy cheek, and a loose-flowing zone,
Round bust, taper ankle, and love-stricken moan,
Is now filling my mind, which I can't at all tone
To a proper prosaic narration of facts,
To a stringing together of anecdotes, acts
Of the painter, the poet, the player—Enough!
Let me fling to the winds such soul-bothering stuff;
And, for this once at least, give my Pegasus rein!
Dear, dreary old knacker! thou never dost complain
Of the work set before thee—the racking of brain,
The endeavour to make muddled matter all plain,
The endeavour to gloss things which go 'gainst the grain,
The endeavour to soften the angles and rubs
Which he finds, who, though wishing his name to retain,
Never dreams now of lounging, belongs to no clubs!

As I hear,
Things are queer
With the Ministry. Sneer
And Dangle, great men, who of acumen boast,
Attached to the journal of fashion, the "Toast"
(Grand creatures! for do not their writings disclose
Their knowledge of all things, from Italy's woes
To the length of the nails on the Hospodar's toes?)
Sneer and Dangle, then, say
That we're in a bad way;
That Lord Derby's, like other dogs, have had their day,
And that the curtain soon falls on the Government play!
That Disraeli's inventions
Bring nought but dissensions;
That a smash has arrived, of gigantic dimensions;
That the great Bulwer Lytton
His colleagues has split on,
That his "carriings on" create great apprehensions,
And that if he don't manage with grace to retire,
He'll be kicked out, infallibly thrown in the mire,
To make room,
I presume,
For that subtle-tongued Greek,
Who the purest Hellenic allusion can speak—
Mr. Gladstone—who writes of the Homeric Age
As glibly as Selby translates the French stage;
And who pledges himself no more warfare to wage,
But, all lamb-like, to couch in the leonine den,
And to clasp, as his brother, Caucasian Ben!
But Higgins—not "Big'un"—not Omnium's
But t'other, who, Byron-like, one morn did wake up,
And found himself famous, has thrown up his berth
As Master in Lunacy—heaven's own earth!—
To Sam Warren, of all men! Sam Warren, Q.C.,
Who wrote that dull thing of the "Lily and Bee,"
"The Medicine Man's Diary," and "Sixpence a Week,"
And who ministers law as Hull's principal beak!
He to reason with madmen! o'er lunatics scan well!
I'd as soon hear a Bedlamite argue at Hanwell;
This is surely a touch of old Thesiger banter
On the maxim, "*Similibus similibus curantur!*"

What next?
I'm perplexed,
And, the truth to tell, vexed,
To find Rowland Hill, who's so long held as text
The public to serve at all hazard, is led
To insist that outside every letter a head
Shall appear, if we don't want it read
By the Post-office clerks! Why, R. H., you must know,
By experience brought to you ages ago,
That in all letters posted throughout the world wide
A head rarely appears when you read the inside!
Then abolish at once this tyrannical hum,
Or you'll find yourself floored! You will really, *by gum!*

On posts and boards, and walls and boards, I read the printed names
Of gallant Colonel Romilly and fluent Edwin James;
For poor Lord Ebrington is ill, and finds he must retire,
And Jacob Bell is too unwell as member to aspire;
And Marleybone is up in arms, and Taverner awakes,
And D'Hillinger has cleared that voice at which the vestry shakes!
Relying on ancestral fame, proud Romilly looks big;
And Edwin casts aside his gown, and never minds his wig;
He leaves to Ballantine and Sleight to prosecute the prig;
Off to committee room s hies he, as merry as a gig;
"My lud" no longer claims him, he on "ballot" runs the rig,
Addresses licensed victuallers at the "Whistle and the Pig,"
Loved by the *phibs* for Bernard's sake he gives the "nobs" a dig,
And esteems the French alliance at the value of a fig.
Then luck to you, great Edwin! Take to St. Stephen's fane,
What's somewhat wanted there just now, brave heart and clever brain!

There's a power of noses by Thames' fetid stream,
And the Israelites throng to the House all day long,
For realised now is young Lip's sweet dream,
Verified is the burden of Solomon's song;
To Abrams and Moses,
And others with noses,
Who live down in Houndsditch, that hot bed of roses,
The future, which "looms," as they tell us, discloses
A scene, where a "Sheen" as the speaker reposes,
In calm placid slumber,
While round him a number
Of that "peoplesh," among whose inveterate foes is
Old Newdegate, listen while Salomons prozes—
In Rothschild's flap ear, as he tranquilly dozes—
"Yeth, we've done it, at last; let them they rot they vill!
Ve vere alwayth good hanth at concocting a Bill,
Tho' ve that down and vept vunt by Babylon vaterth,
Ve can look gay enough now ve've got in good quarterth,
And ve'll take care and move, on the firth of occasionth,
That pork's henceforth excluded from all navy rathionth!"

Did you e'er hear of one Owen Jones?
Who is famed for gradations and tones,
In colour and glasses, in which he surpasses
The rainbow itself, each one owns!
He's got a new spec. on,
And one which I reckon
Will be a success, for as I understand
The Great Northern have taken the matter in hand—
The People's Palace, I mean—and are "bulling" the shares,
And if Jones succeeds, as he will, he declares,
There'll be portions of much good rich land set apart—
Five acres for Drama, five acres for Art,
And five where they purpose a structure to build
To receive aged members of Literature's guild!
And Art is alive,
And likely to thrive,
Though the wonder is how she, poor thing, can contrive
Each ill-mannered hustle and blow to survive
Which she gets at the "British," where fogies connive,
Each season, to kill her. The theatres are full;

At Webster's house there's much cry and little Wool-
Gar—the "cry" is created by Ben,
Whose pathos, as Triplet, is perfect; and then
There is ox-eyed Miss Simms, the new comer, so nice;
Miss Keeley, with sweet-ringing voice beyond price;
And—

Yes! in one moment I've done—
Here's the boy from the printer, who breathless has run,
With a note, saying—"Not one more second I'll wait,
It is really too bad to send copy so late."

In Re Higgins.—In this affair a very ancient plea of justification has been entered—"The woman gave me, and I did eat." It was Lady Chelmsford who "bothered" her lord to give the mastership in lunacy to her daughter's husband. For a long time the Lord Chancellor was obstinate, but at last was overcome, and all his scruples were overcome by importunity. This is the plea of justification, or rather of excuse, which is whispered about by the Conservatives; and I think this version of the affair is very likely to be correct. Lord and Lady Chelmsford have a large family—a dozen children or more; and what so natural as that the mother should wish her own children to be amongst the first to partake of the good things at the disposal of the Lord Chancellor? and that her lord should hesitate, and at last give way, is equally natural; and considering what questionable appointments during the latter part of the reign of the Whigs passed unquestioned, it was not difficult for the Lord Chancellor to hope that this little job might pass unnoticed also; but the corrupt jobbers in office often become the most rigid purists in opposition, as the Lord Chancellor has now discovered, if he did not know it before.

Great was Mr. Warren's elation when first the mastership in lunacy was offered to him. Two thousand a year—not very heavy duties—a retiring pension of £1,500 in prospect, and no obligation to retire from Parliament! It was just the thing for him. But the elation lasted not long; for when Mr. Warren presented himself before the Lord Chancellor to be sworn, he discovered, to his mortification, that though the statute did not require him to vacate his seat, the Lord Chancellor did. "You may have the appointment; but as I am about to bring in a bill to prevent masters in lunacy sitting in Parliament, I cannot in consistency give it on any other condition than that you throw up your seat," were the terrible words which fell upon Mr. Warren's ears more terrible to Mr. Warren, perhaps, than they would be to any other man in the House; for there is not, nor ever was, a man in Parliament so proud of his senatorial honours as Mr. Warren. The House of Commons is his heaven on earth; and to be banished from this paradise, and absolutely prevented from entering, is more than he can bear to think of. It has been reported in the papers that Mr. Warren has accepted the office; but these reports were premature. At the time that I am writing, he has not accepted office. He still hangs in dubiety between heaven and earth: on the one hand is £2,000 a year; on the other, the honour of being a member of the Imperial Legislature. His feelings all tend one way, his pecuniary interests all the other. The general opinion is, that he will ultimately take the office; and there seems to be overwhelming considerations to induce him to do so. He is not rich; he can scarcely hope for anything better, considering the precarious tenure on which his friends hold office; and then, further, by any reform bill, Midhurst is sure to be disfranchised; and if he take not the office, he may in a few months be shut out of his paradise and the £2,000 a year also.

There is certainly some uneasiness in the Conservative camp. The rumour is, that a considerable number of the old Conservatives have manifested some restiveness on the subject of parliamentary reform. Lord Derby is, I am told, uneasy. He is to call his followers together next week—on Tuesday, it is said—when they will be plainly told that if they do not support "the bill," the Ministry will go out and not appeal to the country. We may be on the eve of great political changes. All will depend upon the nature of the bill. If it be of such a character that the Radicals can with anything like consistency vote for it, they will; but if not, Lord Derby's Government will very likely fall between two stools. The determination on the part of the Radicals not to have Lord Palmerston, has been strengthened by his opposition on Tuesday to Mr. Collier's bill to make the payment of the expense of carrying electors to the poll illegal.

Later. The report is now that the Cabinet is divided. The refractory members are the Marquis of Salisbury and the Lord Chancellor, and it is said that these two noblemen, lest they should upset the coach, are to be got rid of. The Marquis must go back to Hatfield House, and try to console himself with the reflection that in these strange times the post of honour for a Tory nobleman is a private station. The Lord Chancellor, it is reported, is to be the Chief Baron of the Exchequer, *viz* Baron Pollock, who is to make way. The salary of the Chief Baron is £7,000. And it is surmised that this office would be more acceptable to Lord Chelmsford than the chancellorship upon an uncertain term, and with a prospect of only £5,000 a year pension.

Mr. Charles Dickens was offered £10,000 to lecture in America for a year. He declined; not without reference, perhaps, to the sentiments of the American vulgar regarding his "American Notes."

A NEW OPERA, entitled "*Le Dernier Jour d'Hercule*," by Félicien David, is about to be produced at the Académie Impériale de Musique. The opera is deeply engaged in preparing for the production of Meyerbeer's "*Dinorah*," which is expected with great curiosity. The principal parts are to be sustained by Madame Marie Cabel, and Messrs. Faure and Saint-Poy.

A CHILD FELL FROM DOVER CLIFF last week, and escaped with a few bruises. Although the precipice is nearly 300 feet high, it has by different falls lost its perpendicular, or rather, at the depth of seventy feet from the summit, forms an inclined plane. The velocity of the boy's fall was thus broken, and he afterwards rolled down into a garden.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN GLASGOW.—On Thursday week the large manufacturing premises of Messrs. Randolph and Co., engineers, of Glasgow, were destroyed by fire. The property consisted to a great extent of machinery in the course of manufacture, and the damage done is estimated at £70,000. The greater part of it is covered by insurance.

THE ACCUMULATION OF GUANO in the Victoria Dock, we were told by Mr. Caird in the House of Commons last week, is as much as would fill the Crystal Palace from floor to roof.

MISS BURDETT GOUTTS is about to erect a block of dwellings in Nova Scotia Gardens, Shoreditch, one of the eyesores of even that neglected quarter of the metropolis. Four storeys, with an attic storey to be used as laundries, &c., club-rooms, and covered areas for the exercise of the children of the inhabitants in wet weather, will make up an imposing building, 176 feet long, and nearly fifty feet high.

THE WHITE STAR CLIPPERS continue to maintain their high character for speed. The "*Mermaid*" recently made the passage from Liverpool to Australia in eighty days; the "*Invincible*" ran over in seventy days; the "*General Wyndham*" in seventy-nine; and the "*White Star*" in seventy-two. These vessels followed each other in June, July, and August of last year; the "*Mermaid*" sailed in September.

A MESSAGE OF PETITION was sent from the largest village in Corfu to Mr. Gladstone lately, stating that their deputies did not represent their views; that they were well satisfied with the British Government; and they begged his Excellency to come out and hear for himself.

OUR TOURIST PRINCES.—News from Rome describes the Prince of Wales as actively engaged in exploring the ruins and sights of Rome. He has had Mr. Gibson, the sculptor, to dine with him, and has paid a complimentary visit to Queen Christina of Spain. Among many other wonderful sights, his Royal Highness has viewed Rome from the bull of St. Peter's. On descending, he was shown a marble tablet commemorative of the event, and was informed that it was made in pursuance of a custom to preserve a memorial of a visit to the Vatican Basilica of any member belonging to a Royal Family, among whose names that of a British Prince now appears for the first time. The subterranean church was afterwards visited by the Prince. Here he saw among other interesting tombs that of the only English Pope, Adrian IV. (once Nicholas Breakspere), and the tombs of the Stuarts, whose titles appear as James III., Charles III., and Henry IX., kings of England.—Prince Alfred, when last we heard of him, was hourly expected to land at Alexandria, where great preparations had been made to welcome him.

NEW BOOKS.

Shakespeare's Legal Acquirements Considered. By JOHN, LORD CAMPBELL, LL.D., F.R.S.E. In a Letter to J. Payne Collier, Esq., F.S.A. London: Murray.

We shall decline the easy task of being unamiably funny over this brochure of a great lawyer in his old age, and heartily wish other men of affairs had Lord Campbell's genial activity and catholic tastes in their more retired occupations. It is not easy to help smiling at the evasive dexterity with which his Lordship has done the summing-up to his jury of one; but he disarms us at once by putting on his title-page, "*Thou art clerkly! thou art clerkly!*" from the "*Merry Wives of Windsor*." If his industrious study of Shakespeare had given his Lordship any signal insight into human nature—which, judging from his "*Act*," and his addresses from the bench, it certainly has not—we should have stronger reasons for wishing other judges to read Shakespeare too; for we agree with Mr. Mill that they manifest, in criminal cases, a very painful ignorance of human character, notwithstanding their equity, amenity, and patient industry of investigation.

But, in brief, what has Lord Campbell written that is noticeable upon this old question of Shakespeare's legal acquirements? Nothing new; nothing but what is pleasantly commonplace. Not to take our readers into any of those dusty antiquarian paths of inquiry which, we all know to our sorrow, at last "dwindle to a squirrel-track, and run up a tree"—usually a date tree—we may say that Lord Campbell thinks there is more presumptive evidence for Shakespeare's having been in a lawyer's office than for his having been a sailor, gardener, apothecary, or student for holy orders; all of which, besides heaven knows what more, he has been proved to have been. Lord Campbell says, in passing—

"In '*The Two Gentlemen of Verona*,' '*Twelfth Night*,' '*Julius Caesar*,' '*Cymbeline*,' '*Timon of Athens*,' '*The Tempest*,' '*King Richard II.*,' '*King Henry V.*,' '*King Henry VI., Part I.*,' '*King Henry VI., Part III.*,' '*King Richard III.*,' '*King Henry VIII.*,' '*Pericles of Tyre*,' and '*Titus Andronicus*,' fourteen of the thirty-seven dramas generally attributed to Shakespeare, I find nothing that fairly bears upon this controversy."

And there he leaves it. But the fact is surely significant, and worth following up. There is, however, a question to be asked upon the general subject, which has not yet, we believe, been even put:—Is it likely that a man of genius, like Shakespeare, having been anyhow engaged in the law, would naturally fill his poetry with reminiscences of his old occupation? Or is doing so more like the trick of a man of humour, of keen intelligence, taste for playing upon words, and, perhaps, of positive inclination for legal pursuits, judged of from the outside? Certainly, some of the cases in which lawyer-like images are used, are very strong, in their "long drawn-out" intricacy of allusion. Not least so that of one of the sonnets:—

SONNET XLVI.

Min's Eye and Heart are at a mortal war
How to divide the conquest of thy sight;
Mine Eye my Heart thy picture's sight would bar,
My Heart mine Eye the freedom of that right.
My Heart doth plead that thou in him dost lie
(A closet never peered with crystal eyes,
But the Defiant doth that plea deny,
And says in him thy fair appearance lies.
To 'hide this title is impudenced
A quest of thoughts, all tenants to the Heart;
And by their verber is determined
The dear Eye's moiety, and the dear Heart's part;
As thus: mine Eye's due is thine outward part,
And my Heart's right thine inward love of heart.

"I need not go further than this sonnet, which is so intensely legal in its language and imagery, that without a considerable knowledge of English forensic procedure it cannot be fully understood. A lover being supposed to have made a conquest of (i.e., to have gained by purchase) his mistress, his Eye and his Heart, holding as joint tenants, have a contest as to how she is to be partitioned between them, each moiety then to be held in severalty. There are regular pleadings in the suit, the Heart being represented as Plaintiff and the Eye as Defendant. At last, issue is joined on what the one affirms and the other denies. Now a jury (in the nature of an inquest) is to be impanelled to 'hide (decide), and by the verdict to apportion between the litigating parties the subject-matter to be divided. The jury fortunately are unanimous, and after due deliberation find for the eye in respect to the lady's outward form, and for the heart in respect of her inward love. Surely Sonnet XLVI. smells as potently of the attorney's office as any of the stanzas penned by Lord Kenyon while an attorney's clerk in Wales."

But a bit of real present life is more interesting than any question of literary criticism, and it is due to Lord Campbell to popularise, as far as we can, one of his foot-notes:—

CAMPBELL'S TALKS OF CAMPBELL.

"In several successive '*Lives of Lord Chief Justice Campbell*,' it is related that by going for a few weeks to Ireland as Chancellor, he obtained a pension of £1,000 a year, which he has ever since received, thereby robbing the public; whereas, in truth and in fact, he made it a stipulation, on his going to Ireland, that he should receive no pension, and pension he never did receive; and without pension or place, for years after he returned from Ireland, he regularly served the public in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and in the judicial business of the House of Lords. This erroneous statement is to be found in a recent life of Lord C., which, upon the whole, laudatory above due measure, but in which the author has passed over by an impartial biography, *viz.*, that he had most improperly obtained this Irish pension, which he still continues to receive, without any benefit being derived by the public from his service. Lord C. ought to speak tenderly of biographers; but I am afraid that they may sometimes be justly compared to the hogs of Westphalia, who, without discrimination, pick up what falls from one another."

Having done his Lordship the good turn of quoting this, we shall beg to ask him a question, in the interest of English syntax—Is there any peculiarity in Westphalian hogs which entitles them to the relative *who*, instead of *which*, which is good enough for hogs in general?

The Collected Songs of Charles Mackay. With Illustrations by John Gilbert. London: Routledge and Co.

THE time is gone by when the song-maker could, according to the oft-quoted saying of Fletcher, of Saltoun, "flout the law-maker." The journalist has spoken the wheels of both. Social habits are altered. A song might be a living pass-word among scattered hamlets and thinly-peopled towns where class sympathies were rife; but what does it signify in Fleet Street, except to the *gamins*? Though Dr. Mackay may not write lyrics which shall supersede laws, he has, nevertheless, a certain bright facility of versification, and an astonishing knack of working up common-places into musical prettiness; but what offends a true eye in these compositions is the somewhat monotonous conventionalism of the symbols by which goodness and well-being are represented; and the implied assumption, pervading the whole, that whatever transcends the flattest level of customary aspiration, must be unfitted for the "people"—obscure either to "head" or "heart." In truth, it is quite otherwise; and Dr. Mackay would have won for himself a much more enduring name, and done a much more enduringly good thing, if he had pitched his music for the "people" a few notes higher. But his choice is made, and his work is done, and we will not be churlish over it. The volume before us is, of course, a pleasant one, but Mr. Gilbert's illustrations are far below his usual mark.

THE NOTTINGHAM TOWN-COUNCIL have given a site in the Arboretum for the erection of a monument to Feargus O'Connor. A few more examples like this would put statues out of fashion.

A Bill has been introduced by Mr. McCann and Mr. William Brown to provide for the sale of grain, meal, and flour, butter, and potatoes, and other agricultural produce, from the 1st of January next, by the pound avoirdupois, the score of 20lb., the cental of 100lb., and the ton of 2,000lb.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.—A special jury cause, "*Starling v. Crawshaw*," tried last week in the Court of Queen's Bench, involved a principle of importance. The plaintiff succeeded in placing beyond dispute the principle in trade, that an agent who introduces a buyer to a seller is entitled to a commission where business results from that introduction, and that he cannot be deprived of his remuneration by the fact that the principals complete the contract without his further intervention. The plaintiff had a verdict for £1,000.



SYDNEY UNIVERSITY.—(E. BLO-SKY, ARCHITECT.)

THE NEW UNIVERSITY AT SYDNEY.
Not only in the extension of commerce and the development of agriculture, but in every sign of national stability, our colonies rapidly distinguish themselves. A few weeks ago, we called attention to the enormous public works undertaken on the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada. This week we give our readers two pictures still more striking, perhaps. The buildings of the New University of Sydney—now nearly completed—will constitute probably the largest and most striking architectural edifice to be found in any British colony.

Erected according to the designs, and under the superintendence, of Mr. E. Blocket, an able and enthusiastic architect, the building (ultimately intended to form three sides of a quadrangle) presents a front of more than 500 feet in length, in the centre of which, surmounting the principal gateway, is a tower, upwards of 100 feet high; abutting on the western end of the facade, is a Hall—a drawing of which we present to our readers—in the later mediæval style of architecture, the dimensions of which are 140 feet in length, 40 feet in breadth, and 70 feet in height, from the pavement to the centre of the open roof. This latter is constructed of open timber work, the material employed being the indigenous iron bark and cedar. The details of construction are closely copied from some of the more celebrated examples of England; the curved trusses being supported by angles bearing shields, and other ornamental devices.

The hall is lighted by fifteen windows, the tracery of the whole of which will be filled with stained glass. The ornate tracery of the great southern window will be filled with a series of figures, the size of life, representing the founders of the several colleges of Oxford.

that at the opposite end of the hall containing a similar design in relation to Cambridge. A large bay-window will include the effigies of all the sovereigns of England, with their armorial ensigns, from the Conqueror to Queen Victoria, whose figure will form the centre of the group. The remaining side lights, each containing three compartments, will present a series of figures of some of the most celebrated literary and scientific personages of Britain, beginning with Bede,* and ending with Captain Cook; who, as the discoverer of the colony, may be said thus to connect its history with the pantheon of great English names. The whole of the windows have been designed and are being executed by Messrs. Clayton and Bell, of London. The expense attendant upon the carrying out of this elaborate and costly design will be entirely defrayed by the voluntary subscriptions of colonists interested in the establishment of the University, and anxious to witness the completion of a building possessing all the ornamental illustrations and accompaniments of an English collegiate edifice; serious, in short, to create in this the remotest dependency of the British crown, an institution possessing in some degree the *material* as well as the moral attributes of the two great Universities of England; and suggestive of names and associations dear to every Englishman, in whatever part of the world his lot may be cast.

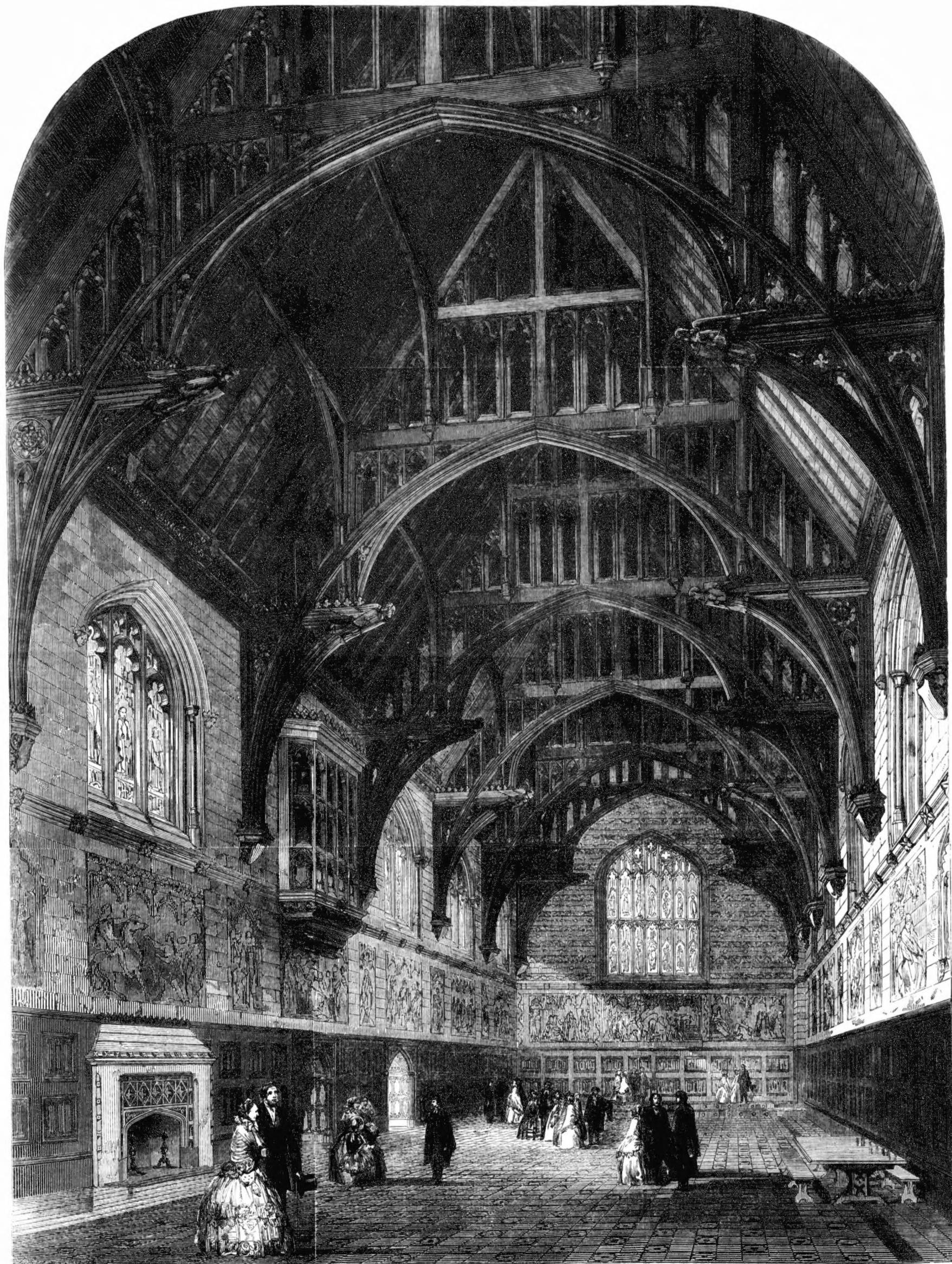
* The Venerable Bede, Cadmon, Roger Bacon, Robert Greathead, and John Duns Scotus; Chaucer, Fortescue, James I. of Scotland, Sir Thomas More, Earl of Surrey, Spenser, Beaumont and Fletcher, Shakespeare, Ford and Massinger, Sir W. Raleigh, Lord Bacon, Sir Philip Sydney, John Milton, Milton, Harvey, Dryden, Pope, Addison, Dr. Bowdler, Northey, Locke, Gray, Johnson, Burke, Dr. Black, Blackstone, and Carlton Cress. All these figures are of life size.

The University buildings are placed on a commanding site, in the centre of an area of about 140 acres, the whole of which is granted for the use of the University, and of the affiliated colleges that may be established in connection with it. Of these, the Church of England College of St. Paul's is already erected, whilst large funds have been raised for the erection of three other colleges of residence, under the auspices of the Church of Scotland, the Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic bodies. By the constitution of the University, the religious teaching, and moral supervision of the students, are confided to the affiliated colleges. All students, however, whether resident in colleges or not, are required to attend the *secular* teaching of the University lecturers and professors. Large sums of money have been granted for the erection of the buildings, and an annual grant of £5,000 towards the support of the University, and of £2,000 in aid of the colleges, is provided from the Colonial Treasury. The institution has the power of conferring degrees in arts, law, and medicine. Of these several faculties, the staff of professors in that of arts is alone complete. The senior classical professor is the Rev. Dr. Woolley, formerly Fellow of University College, Oxford; the mathematical professor, M. P. Pell, Esq., formerly of St. John's College (Cambridge), where he attained the honour of senior wrangler and Smith's prizeman. John Smith, Esq., M.D., professor of chemistry and experimental philosophy, was formerly assistant-professor in the same capacity in King's College, Aberdeen. The University has eighteen open scholarships of from £50 to £100 each annual value. The present, Sir Charles Nicholson, is now on a visit to England, and at the last session lectured at Oxford had the distinction of receiving the honorary degree of D.C.L.

BRITISH EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA.—The Government returns for the past year, as issued by the Board of Trade, show that to our Australasian colonies the exports for the twelve months, ending December 31, amounted to £10,464,198, being £6,965,965 for enumerated articles, and £3,498,233 for unenumerated articles. The aggregate value for the corresponding period of 1867, was £11,632,524, showing a decrease in the past year, as compared with the previous, of £1,167,326. The principal item of exports of enumerated articles was metals and metallic manufactures, including machinery, which gives a total of £1,381,995; wrought leather and saddlery, £1,143,424; apparel and cloths, £1,112,144; haberdashery and millinery, £863,982; cotton and linens, £767,000; beer, ale, and spirits, £571,300; woolen and stuffs, £475,764; stationery, £284,701; silk manufactures, £190,692; earthenware, £106,214; oil seed, £40,726; and soap, £18,243. The respective value of goods sent to each colony was—for Victoria, £5,419,354; New South Wales, £2,919,325; South Australia, £979,616; Tasmania, £973,152; Western Australia, £52,244; and New Zealand, £400,997.

"When a man is in danger of drowning," says the *Steele*, "he must be saved; when an exhausted nation, ripe for liberty, looks out her hand to France, it is the right and the duty of France to assist her, at first by diplomatic means, and in default of them by arms. No Utopia, no arguments, no paradoxes, can prevail against this essential and undeniable truth."

M. FRANÇOIS VICTOR HUGO, the youngest son of the French poet, has just sent from the press the first volume of his translation of the works of Shakespeare. It is dedicated to Prosper Mérimée, and contains the *Titus Andronicus*. It is the first of a series of translations of the works of the English dramatist, and is published by M. Hachette.



INTERIOR OF BALL UNIVERSITY, SYDNEY

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

INSTEAD of three Italian operas this summer, it appears now that we are to have two Italian operas and one hotel. Her Majesty's Theatre is to be converted into an inn, and Drury Lane is to be changed into a fashionable theatre. Whether the public will lose or gain by these attractions is not doubtful. Mr. E. T. Smith has engaged an excellent company, and if, as is stated, he has secured the services of Mr. Benediet, he will certainly have a first-rate orchestra—for a conductor of such deserved eminence would not imperil his reputation by associating himself with an indifferent band. The Royal Italian Opera, with the finest instrumental body in Europe, and three such singers as Bosio, Mario, and Ronconi, will of course keep up its high reputation, and, in addition to two operatic establishments of the first class, we shall have a good hotel, which is much wanted in London. But although Lord Ward has a right to sell her Majesty's Theatre to an hotel company, and although it is impossible to blame Mr. Gye for rebuilding Covent Garden, it is clear that somewhere or other a blunder has been committed. The Royal Italian Opera, if destined to be burnt down, was consumed a year too soon, or Mr. Lumley, if it was written that he should fail, failed a year too late. What a deal of trouble would have been saved, if the present operatic position had been reached immediately after the destruction of Covent Garden! There would then have been no necessity to convert a magnificent theatre, admirably situated, and intimately associated with the history of the lyric drama in England, into a species of tavern, and Mr. Gye might have established himself at the opera house where most of his singers made their reputation. As for our old friend the British Drama, no one troubles himself about his claims in the least. He has now been turned out of Drury Lane, as he was previously ejected from Covent Garden, and we do not think even the advent to management of Mr. Augustus Harris (at the Princess's) can restore him to public favour.

The Italian company at Drury Lane is to include the tenor Mongini, who is singing now at St. Petersburg, and who has at least as great a reputation as Giuglini had before his appearance in London; Brambilla, a young soprano from La Scala; Titiens, who was supposed to be irrevocably engaged to Mr. Lumley; Graziani, who some how or other has been induced to forswear his allegiance to Mr. Gye; and Ludovico Graziani, the baritone's tenor brother, now singing with great success at the Italian Opera in Paris. Badiali, the baritone of last season, is also engaged; and the only weak point in the company lies in the absence of a first-rate contralto. But the want of contralti is one of the wants of the age. Nature, it is true, sends contralti, but art supplies singing-masters; and vocalists have a natural objection to executing the music of Arsace and Maffeo Orsini at two thousand a year, when, with a little straining, they can be enabled to play Semiramide and Lucrezia at four thousand. The last deserter from the contralto ranks is Madame Nantier Didice, who has accepted an engagement at the Académie de Paris. Thus, Mr. Gye loses two of his best singers—we have already stated that Graziani goes to Drury Lane. Madame Nantier Didice's successor at the Royal Italian Opera has not been mentioned, but if Mr. Gye could obtain Madame Lablache—De Mérie (now at St. Petersburg), or Madame Borghi Mamo (who, however, has herself an objection to contralto parts—that is to say, contralto pay), he would gain by his loss. Graziani's *remplacement* at Covent Garden is De Bassini, of the St. Petersburg troupe. It is strange that our two "national theatres," as they used to be called, should be given up to the Italians; but as we have no dramatic authors, and only three or four good actors, whom not even money could induce to play in the same piece, we really cannot regret the fact, though the state of things which renders it unregrettable is discreditable and disgraceful to England.

The Royal English Opera at Covent Garden is still flourishing. "Satanella"—in a managerial point of view, at least—has been a great success, for it has been played almost without intermission since its first production in December. Once or twice "Fra Diavolo" has been given, and latterly the "Rose of Castille" has been revived. On one occasion of the performance of the latter opera, the Queen was present, and, we believe, the performance was by private "special desire" of her Majesty. In the meanwhile, the success of the "Satanella" music has been much greater than that of the "Satanella" piece. The opera contains an abundance of pleasing melodies, and the singing of Miss Pyne and Mr. Harrison obtains great applause in spite of the uninteresting nature of most of the scenes in which they appear. The next new opera at Covent Garden is to be the "Rip Van Winkle," by Bristow, an American composer, who, however, lived many years in England, and studied under Mr. Macfarren. "Rip Van Winkle" has already been played by the Pyne and Harrison company, in the United States, where it met with great success. As the season of the Royal English Opera terminates in about a month, it will be impossible to produce anything after the American opera, which, we believe, will be ready in a few days. Mr. Loder and Mr. Wallace, with "Agnes and Raymond," and "Loreley," respectively, will thus have to wait till next year. It is said that Mr. E. T. Smith intends to give English opera at the close of the Italian season. Where he is to get his soprano, and whether or not Mr. Sims Reeves will be his tenor, is not stated.

The last Monday evening concert at St. James's Hall, devoted entirely to the works of Mozart, was attended very numerously by an audience perfectly enthusiastic in its appreciation of the many lovely pieces comprised in the entertainment. The execution was of unusual excellence, and the performance of the grand quintet in G minor, the quartet in C, and the sonata in B flat, was such as can only be attained when the most finished players undertake the execution of the most perfect music. People have so long been in the habit of hearing all kinds of absurdities re-demanded with more or less rapture, that the encore awarded unanimously to the second movement of the sonata in B flat had all the importance of a great musical event. M. Saintron, the skilful violinist, seemed astonished, and Mr. Benediet, the accomplished pianist, looked mystified. But the audience was in earnest, and the charming *andantino* was repeated. Of the solo songs, the passionate and affecting "Addio" must be noticed, for the admirable manner in which it was given by Miss Palmer, who, it is true, never had anything more beautiful to sing, and who, as far as we can remember, never before sang so well. Mr. Wilbye Cooper distinguished himself by his rendering of "The very angels weep, dear." Mr. Santley sang, in his usual masterly style, the brilliant "Questi Avventurieri," from the "Seraglio;" and the two gentlemen were encored in the lively "Su bevilmo," from the same delightful opera. Altogether, thanks to the judicious selection of the pieces composing the programme, the thorough excellence of the music, and the admirable execution of all the vocalists and instrumentalists engaged, this Mozart concert was a wonder and almost unexampled success.

On Monday the third concert of the classical series will be given. It is to be devoted to selections from the chamber music of Haydn and Weber. There will afterwards be a Beethoven night, and there is no reason why these delightful and intellectual entertainments should not be continued indefinitely.

On Tuesday evening, the Vocal Association gave an undress concert. As heroes are no longer heroes in the presence of their *valets de chambre*, so the Vocal Association, in the presence of an undress audience, occasionally ceases to sing in tune. The parallel is not very exact; but, nevertheless, it is a fact that the "off-nights" given by Mr. Benediet's choir are not very brilliant affairs. The Association may plead that these are not intended as public exhibitions, and that the audience consists, for the most part, of subscribers and subscribers' friends. But it has been laid down by a great authority, that whether at a benefit-concert, a subscription-concert, or a concert of no matter what kind, if there is only one person present who has paid for his ticket, that person deserves to be protected. There is no necessity for the Vocal Association to give these cheap undress concerts at all. Mr. Thackeray does not publish the uncorrected proofs of the "Virginians" at half the price of the same, duly revised; nor ought singers to invite the public to attend their uncorrected performances of vocal music. However, the concert on Tuesday

evening was, on the whole, creditable enough. Mr. Otto Goldschmidt's new part song—which, at the first public concert, was given with no great certainty—was sung very effectively, and with remarkable distinctness. The trio from the "Mountain Sylph," "When this magic-wave scarf," was also sung in a very commendable manner, and many of the solos were worthy of praise. The next grand dress-concert of the Vocal Association is to take place on Wednesday, March the 2nd, when, in addition to the "Loreley" music, an "Ave Maria" of Mendelssohn's, not yet heard in this country, is to be given.

LAW AND CRIME.

AN action was brought against the sheriffs of Middlesex under the following circumstances: A person named Fox, representing himself as an attorney's clerk, brought to Messrs. Willis, officers to the sheriffs, a writ of *capias* upon a judgment for £45. The defendant in that action was arrested, and paid the amount. Fox called on Messrs. Willis, and requested £20 of the sum in hand for the purpose of paying the plaintiff's labourers. The £20 was accordingly handed to him. The plaintiff subsequently applied to Messrs. Willis for the whole amount, and as they would not pay it to him, brought an action against the sheriffs for allowing the prisoner to escape. The sheriffs pleaded that the damage of the plaintiff by such "escape" (for it seems that the sheriff is not legally bound to discharge a prisoner even on payment of the amount for which they may have arrested him), was only the £45. As to £20 of this sum, they pleaded payment, and they paid the balance into court. The plaintiff proceeded to trial, when singular circumstances were elicited. His attorney in the first action had been obliged for "certain reasons" (said to be the necessity of himself keeping out of the way) to hand over the case to a second. The second had been arrested. Plaintiff scarcely knew the name of the attorney who brought the case into court, and had only been introduced to him on the morning of trial. He (plaintiff) had, as he said, no pecuniary interest in the matter, as he had been indemnified against costs, and his money was then in court. He did not know that, in fact, his money had been paid out to his order, and had signed no authority for that purpose. He had, however, at the commencement of proceedings, signed a blank sheet of paper. The jury returned a verdict for the sheriffs, on the ground that Fox had been authorised to receive the £20 for plaintiff's attorney. The authority to receive money out of court seems to have been written upon ordinary paper instead of the customary printed form, the compulsory use of which, if insisted upon by the officials of the court, might save such a question as here arises. It seems to us, moreover, that there is something in this matter, one of a class by no means unknown to all connected with practice of the law, upon which it is not our province just at present to expatiate, but which might be investigated to the utmost by the Incorporated Law Society, with equal advantage to the legal profession and to the public. It has long been a matter of notoriety that a large proportion of the time of our courts is occupied in trying vexatious actions with which legally-qualified practitioners have little, if anything, to do beyond the illegal loan of a name.

The police-report heading, "Serious charge against a respectable tradesman," appears to enjoy a continuously recurrent vitality. A statistician might prophesy with tolerable certainty its appearance at regular intervals. The petty shifts and dishonesties countenanced in what is ordinarily characterised as mere "sharp dealing," lead inevitably to a certain number of charges of crime, by engendering a commercial reasoning upon false assumptions. If one takes simple adulteration, for instance, as an allowable practice, there is nothing, arguing from such a point, to render theft unjustifiable. The result, as we see, is that respectability is every now and then brought into the criminal's dock. One Mr. Tillet has recently invented a machine for cutting the pretty spiral "spills" now so frequently used for domestic purposes. To a Mr. Samuel Molyneux, steam sawyer and matchmaker, the use of this invention appears to have been desirable. He therefore seems to have tampered with one of Mr. Tillet's labourers, by name Perkins, to initiate him into the manufacture of the article. Perkins consented to do so, and was engaged at 12s. per week to make a model for Mr. Molyneux of Mr. Tillet's machine. Great was the delight of Molyneux, who is said to have boasted that the new appliance would bring him in £5 a day. The model machine was set in action before Christmas last, and was some time afterwards broken. Perkins brought Molyneux a plane and cutting-knife, which were introduced into the model machine, and Perkins left his employer, Mr. Tillet, to work the implement for Molyneux. It has been discovered that the knife and plane were stolen from the machine of Tillet; therefore Perkins has been taken into custody for stealing them, and Molyneux for receiving them, knowing them to have been stolen. The proof of Molyneux's guilty knowledge of the actual theft appears upon the evidence to be altogether deficient. Nevertheless, he has been remanded, with Perkins, for a week, and bail refused. Perhaps the reason for his remand was that although conviction could not be secured upon the charge of knowingly receiving the articles, of which the value was only a few shillings, still there was evidence enough against him of his having surreptitiously and dishonestly possessed himself of an idea, of the daily value of £5, to justify the annoyance of a remand without bail, upon the probability of sufficient evidence to convict of the crime charged.

A little ragged girl aged 12, knocked at the door of a private house and requested to be allowed to clean the steps. The residents of the house compassionately employed her, and took her into the house as a domestic servant. She remained about a month, and then stole a sovereign from her benefactors and absconded. She went directly to two haberdashers and purchased ribbons, cap fronts, a bonnet, mantle, and crinoline. With the crinoline she was so ecstatically affected, as to request permission to put it on in the shop. This was declined, and she repaired to her mother with the purchases. Her mother soon brought her to a confession of the theft, and announced an intention of taking the articles bought to her daughter's late employers. The girl entreated secrecy, exclaiming, when driven to an extremity, "If you don't go, mother, you may even have the crinoline." The mother, a poor widow, was inexorably honest, and informed the girl's employers of the matter. They gave her into custody, and Mr. Hammill the magistrate sentenced her to twenty-one days' imprisonment, as a preliminary to her reception for five years into the Hampstead Reformatory. By the termination of that period it is probable that an alteration in fashion may have removed the temptation which proved so irresistible in the present instance.

A female beggar was last week taken into custody and proved to be the wife of a carpenter in respectable circumstances, with a comfortable home. The woman had between £200 and £300 in the bank, and habitually saved £1 per week from her own and her husband's earnings. Her husband had constantly remonstrated with her against her propensity for begging, but she could not break herself of the profitable habit, which had become simply a vice. The sitting Alderman at Guildhall committed her to prison for three weeks, with hard labour.

Lieutenant Higginson, who has several times recently excited some sympathy by his appearance in mistaken positions in our public courts, last week tried an action against the Bank of England. The Lieutenant claimed to have invented and registered, in 1845, a plan for rendering buildings fire-proof by means of a tank of water on the roof, with pipes descending to stop-cocks on every floor. The Bank were said to use this plan without acknowledgment, and hence the action. It was proved, in defence, that the Bank never used this plan, but had used one very similar since 1851, since which time the arrangement had not been altered. The Lieutenant was therefore nonsuited.

Charles B. Spencer, an insolvent, examined on Monday last before Mr. Commissioner Law, deposed on oath that, having been committed from the Ludlow County Court for twenty-one days in a suit for debt, he had been imprisoned for that period in solitary confinement, and forced to subsist on jail allowance. Also that during this time he had a sore throat, for which his friends sent him some jam, which was kept from him until his release.

POLICE.

WARNING TO LADIES.—James Smythe, seventeen, was charged before Mr. Hammill, with stealing a gold watch, value £10, from a lady named De Silva Leiria, residing in the Caledonian Villas.

Prosecution stated that she was alone in Church Street, Hackney, on the previous afternoon, having shortly before parted with a lady friend, when the prisoner, in an excited manner, stopped her, and asked the road to "The Downs." She raised her arm for the purpose of pointing out the direction; this displayed her gold chain. Prisoner appeared not to comprehend, and for at least a minute she stood explaining the way to his presumed destination; suddenly she felt a touch at her side, missed her watch, snapped from the chain in the usually adroit manner, and charged him with the theft.

No defence was offered, and the prisoner was remanded.

INCITING AN APPRENTICE TO STEAL GOLD.—Joseph Bradshaw, 42, of Ironmonger Row, St. Luke's, was charged before Mr. Corrie, on remand, with feloniously receiving thirteen pennyweights of gold and a gold mould, the property of Mr. William Bayley, gold and silver beater, of Clerkenwell. The particulars of this charge have already been reported. Further evidence having been taken, the prisoner was committed for trial.

WHY SOLDIERS WEAR BELTS.—James Fuller, a private of the second battalion of the Coldstream Guards, was charged with stealing a decanter and glass mug from a room near Duck Lane, Westminster. On the owner of the decanter following him to give him into custody, he struck her in the face, and upon the appearance of a policeman, defendant took off his belt, and assaulted the officer, hurting his hand very much, but was restrained from committing any further violence by timely assistance. The accused was remanded for a further hearing, when as evidence of the theft was not forthcoming, Mr. Arnold said he should pass over that charge, but should proceed to punish defendant for the assault upon the constable. He was determined in all cases where soldiers were charged with using that dangerous instrument, their belt, that he would either send them for trial when he found it necessary, or inflict summarily the full penalty of the law, which latter he should do in the present instance.

Defendant was committed for one month to the House of Correction.

A ROBBERY DISCOVERED THROUGH THE NEW POSTAL SYSTEM.—Frederick Crosswell, sixteen, was charged, on his own confession, with plundering his master to a very considerable extent.

Mr. Nesbit, of Kennington Lane, said the prisoner had been in his employment for the last five months, and during that period witness had been robbed he should say to the extent of £250. He, however, had no suspicion of prisoner until Friday last, when he was given a penny to procure a postage-stamp to put on a letter; but, instead of doing so, he kept the penny, and posted the letter unpaid. In accordance with the recent postal regulation, the letter was opened and sent back to witness, and by this means he discovered the boy's dishonesty. The prisoner at once admitted his guilt, and witness then charged him with stealing other property, and he admitted this also. He said he had taken a quantity of platinum from time to time and sold it at the shops of two marine store dealers in the neighbourhood. One piece worth 30s., had thus been sold for 3s.

The prisoner, in reply to the charge, admitted that all he had stated to his master was perfectly true, and pointed out in court the marine store dealers who had purchased the property from him.

One of these admitted having purchased some glass and fat from the boy, but nothing else; and another, a woman, stoutly maintained that she had never seen him before.

The prisoner was remanded.

EXTENSIVE BURGLARY IN MAYFAIR.—George Williams was charged with entering the house No. 8, Queen Street, May Fair, and being found with a quantity of coins, supposed to be stolen.

Payne, 42 C, said that on the previous night, about nine o'clock, he saw the prisoner and another man going over an area gate, but seeing him they jumped back again, and went into the house by the kitchen window. He then went round to the back of the house in Lambeth Mews, and saw prisoner and the other man jump on to a dunghill in the mews. He seized the prisoner, but the other man escaped. On searching prisoner at the station, a quantity of gold and silver coins were found upon him.

Sergeant Crocker, 9 C, proved finding on the roof of the house, 42, Charles Street, Berkeley Square, the residence of Lady Gooch, five work-boxes, a writing-desk, and other property, also a rope-ladder left by the side of the articles.

Lady Gooch identified a mourning-ring, some coins, a medal of the taking of Portobello by Admiral Vernon, and other property found on the prisoner, as belonging to her.

A GOOD PLACE FOR ATTORNEYS, OF A SORT.—Several cases in which innocent parties had been given into custody called forth strong remarks from the magistrate. A man was charged with stealing a coat which his tailor said he had made and sold him. Another man was charged with stealing a can which had never been lost, and a third for committing a robbery in Poplar, he being in bed and asleep at the time. Mr. Yardley said if all the cases of false imprisonment which occur in this court were tried out, it would make the fortunes of four or five attorneys.

ATTEMPTED WIFE MURDER.—At the Lambeth police-court, Robert Newman was charged with having attempted to murder his wife. The circumstances were of a most revolting character. On the 24th of July last he struck her on the head with a hatchet while she was in bed sleeping. She remained insensible for a period of three weeks, and had only sufficiently recovered to give evidence. Remanded.

A MAN, of drunken habits, was apprehended at Blackburn for robbing his son of £20, and committed to prison; where he managed to commit suicide by hanging himself.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

THE continued warlike preparations in France, and the prospect of the new Indian Loan being shortly in the Stock Exchange, have produced some heaviness in the money market this week, and a dropping tendency. Consols have been done at 93½ and 93; the Reduced and the new 3 per Cents, 95½. Bank Stock has ruled steady, at 229. The thirty years' annuities have marked 18½; India Bonds, 15s. to 20s. prem.; and the Loan Debentures, 8½.

A notice has been issued, to the effect that the Exchequer Bills, dated March, 1859, now about to fall due, will be renewed at 1½d. per cent. The rate is 2d. The bills have been done at 3½s. to 3½s. prem.

The supply of money in the discount market is very large. Although the demand is steady, short first-class paper is done in Lombard Street, at 2 to 2½ per cent. The Government broker has continued to make daily purchases of about £20,000 in the new 3 per Cents, on account of the savings banks.

The dealings in the foreign house have been very moderate, and Austrian scrip has marked a discount. In Paris, the Bourse has been excited, and prices have suffered a further decline.

Several parcels of gold have been sold to the Bank of England, and the export demand is limited. The Eastern exchanges come rather more favourable for this country, and silver is flat, at 5s. 1½d. per ounce.

In the railway share market some depression has prevailed, and prices almost generally—although the traffic receipts are good—show a dropping tendency.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Although only moderate supplies of English wheat have come to hand this week, the demand for all kinds has ruled very active, and, in some instances, has had a dropping tendency. In foreign wheat—the show of which has continued seasonably good—very little has been passing, on former terms. There has been a fair demand for barley, at extreme rates; and fine malt has commanded rather more attention. Oats and peas have moved off steadily, at full prices, but beans have given way 1s. per qr. No change has taken place in the value of flour.

ENGLISH CURRENCY.—Wheat, 25s. and Kent, Red, 28s. to 28s.; ditto, White, 41s. to 50s.; Norfolk and Lincoln, Red, 27s. to 42s.; Rye, 31s. to 31s.; Grinding Barley, 24s. to 28s.; Distilling, 25s. to 30s.; Malting, 33s. to 42s.; Malt, 82s. to 69s.; Feed Oats, 22s. to 27s.; Potato, 26s. to 31s.; Tick Beans, 40s. to 44s.; Gray Peas, 39s. to 45s.; Maple, 40s. to 43s.; Bollers, 40s. to 44s. per quarter. Town made Flour, 38s. to 40s.; Town household, 38s. to 40s.; Country Market, 28s. to 32s. per 28lb. cwt. Very moderate supplies of beasts have been on offer, and all kinds have sold steadily, at fully last week's prices. Sheep have commanded more attention, and the quotations have had an upward tendency. Calves and pigs have realised previous currencies. Beef from 3s. 4d. to 4s. 10d.; mutton, 3s. 10d. to 3s. 10d.; veal, 3s. 10d. to 3s. 10d.; pork, 3s. to 4s. 2d. per 8lbs. to 10lbs. cwt. **NEWCASTLE.**—A large quantity of meat on offer this week are only moderate. The trade generally rules steady, at very full prices. Beef, from 3s. to 4s. 6d.; mutton, 3s. 4d. to 4s. 8d.; veal, 3s. 8d. to 4s. 8d.; pork, 2s. 8d. to 4s. 2d. per 8lbs. by the carcass.

TEA.—There is more doing in our market, and common sound Congou is worth 1s. 1½d. per lb.

COFFEE.—Good and fine raw qualities have sold steadily, on former terms; but damp parcels have met a dull inquiry, at barely late rates. Refined goods have moved off freely—common titlers at 35s.; brown lump, 55s. 6d.; and pieces, 45s. to 48s. per cwt.

MOLASSES.—The demand is somewhat restricted; nevertheless, prices generally are well supported.

WEAVE.—We have to report a steady, but by no means active, demand for nearly all kinds of weave, at fully late currencies. The show of samples is only moderate.

COCOA.—There is rather more business doing in this article, at very full prices.

PROVISIONS.—Fine qualities of butter are in fair request, at full quotations; but inferior parcels move off slowly. Bacon, hams, and lard are selling at full currencies.

WHEAT AND FLAX.—Wheat moves off steadily, at full quotations; but Manila parcels rule heavy. In the value of flax no change has taken place.

COTTON.—Our market is firm, at very full prices.

SALTPEATRE.—Although the stock is only 35,000 cwt. on the spot, in spite of very little doing, Tin is firm, at 180s. for Straits. Most other metals rule about stationary.

POTATOES.—The supplies are only moderate, and the demand for most kinds is steady, at from 4s. to 10s. per ton.

HOPS.—Fine new hops move off freely, and prices are well supported. The market is but a little supply.

